

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1958

INDEX

	Page		Page
Abattoirs, Public	80	Helping Hand Shop	123
Aged and Infirm, Provision of Accommodation	112	Holiday Convalescence	50
Ambulance Service	47	Home Helps	52, 54
Ante-Natal Care	17	Homeless Families	52
Ante-Natal Clinics	17	Home Nursing	42
Atmospheric Pollution	96	Home Workers	118
Basement Dwellings	78	Hospital Car Service	47
B.C.G. Vaccination	50, 69	House Refuse, Collection and Disposal	108
Births, Birth-rates, etc.	9, 35	Houses Let-in-Lodgings	77
Blind, Care of the	116	Houses, Repair of	78
Blood Tests	18	Houses, Verminous	102
Canal Boats	105	Housing	75, 79, 110
Care and After-Care	71	Housing Act, 1936-49	75
Certificates of Disrepair	78	Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc.	90
Cesspool Emptying	109	Ice Cream	90
Chief Public Health Inspector, Report of	75	Individual Unfit Houses	76
Chiropody Service	124	Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates (Table of)	19
Chronic Bronchitis and other Chest Diseases	71	Infant Mortality (Table of)	9, 17, 37
Clean Food Campaign	90	Infant Welfare Clinics... ..	22, 23
Clearance Areas	75	Infectious Diseases	103
Closure of Parts of Buildings... ..	77	Infectious Diseases (Table of Notifications)	66
Common Lodging Houses	103	Institutional Midwifery	36
Condemned Foodstuffs	83, 86, 87	International Certificates	125
Confinements, Particulars of	35	Knackers' Yards	86
Cremation	125	Labelling of Food	93
Day Nurseries	28	Local Land Charges	79
Deaf and Dumb, Welfare of	115	Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930	55
Deaths, Causes of and Ages at	15	Marriages, Number of	10
Deaths, Death-rates	10, 12	Maternal Deaths	10, 33
Deaths, Table of	12	Maternal Mortality Rate	10, 19
Diphtheria	63	Meals on Wheels Service	124
Diphtheria Immunisation	43, 45	Measles	63
Diseases of Animals Act, 1894-1950... ..	83	Meat for Export	80
Disinfection	102	Meat Inspection	80, 81, 82, 84
Disinfestations	102	Meat, Transportation of	86
Domestic Helps	52, 54	Mental Deficiency	57
Domiciliary Midwifery	30, 31, 40	Mental Illness	55
Drinking Water	104	Mental Welfare	55, 56
Duly Authorised Officer	55	Merchandise Marks	93
Employment	13	Meteorological Report... ..	11
Entertainment, Places of	105	Midwifery	40
Expectant Mothers and Young Children, Dental Care of	28, 29	Midwives, Cases Attended	39
Factories Act, 1937 and 1948	104	Midwives, Number of	38
Family Caseworker	51	Milk, Biological Testing of	96
Families with Problems	41	Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949	88, 89
Food and Drugs Act, 1938-1955	93	Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949	88, 89
Food Hygiene Education	90	Mothercraft Classes	41
Food, Inspection & Supervision	91	Movable Dwellings	103
Food Poisoning	63	Municipal Midwives	30
Food, Unsound, Destroyed	87	National Assistance Act, 1948	
Gas-air Analgesia	40	Section 21a—	
Gestation, Period of (Table)	36	Provision of Accommodation for Aged and Infirm	112
Geriatric Care and After-Care Visiting	41	Section 21b—	
Guard that Fire Campaign	51	Temporary Accommodation	114
Handicapped Persons, Other Classes	120	Section 22—	
Hard of Hearing, Welfare of	116	Charges for Accommodation	114
Health Centres	16		
Health Committee	4		
Health Education	51		
Health Visiting	41		
Health Visiting Summary	41, 42		

INDEX

	Page		Page
Section 24—		Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	106
Authority liable for the Provision of Accommodation	114	Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	71
Section 25—		Problem Families	51
Power of N.A.B. to Order the Provision of Accommodation in Urgent Cases	114	Public Health Laboratory Service	125
Section 26—		Puerperal Pyrexia	33
Provision of Accommodation in Premises maintained by Voluntary Organisations	115	Queen Victoria Institute	30, 37
Section 29—		Radio Control Ambulances	48
Welfare of Handicapped Persons—		Rag Flock Act, 1951	105
Blind Persons	115	Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind	116
Section 31—		Reading Family Aid Group	51
Meals for Old People	124	Reading Tuberculosis Care Association	49
Section 37—		Refuse Disposal	108
Registration of Old People's Homes	124	Relaxation Class	33
Section 47—		Residential Accommodation (Table)	113
Removal to Suitable Premises of People in Need of Care and Attention	125	Rodent Control	106
Section 50—		Sampling	89, 93, 94
Burial or Cremation of the Dead	125	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	72
National Health Service Act, 1946		Scarlet Fever	63
Section		School Kitchens	92
21—Provision of Health Centres	16	School Milk Supplies	90
22—Care of Mothers and Young Children	17	Sewage Disposal	108, 109
23—Midwifery	30	Sewers and Drains	109
24—Health Visiting	41	Shops Act, 1950	105
25—Home Nursing	42	Sickness Benefit: Number of New Claims	14
26—Vaccination and Immunisation	43	Slaughterhouses	80
27—Ambulance Service	47	Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933–1954	83
28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	48	Slipper Baths	110
29—Provision of Home Helps	52	Slum Clearance	75
50 and 51—Mental Welfare	55	Smoke Abatement	96
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	27	Staff	5
Nuisances	102	Staphylococcal Infection of the New-born	33
Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948	125	Statistical Summary	9, 10
Nursing Equipment and Apparatus, Provision of	50	Stillbirths	9, 17, 32
Nursing Homes	125	Street Cleansing	108
Occupational Therapy	50, 123	Swimming Baths	104, 110
Occupation Centre	60, 61, 62	Temporary Accommodation	114
Offensive and Allied Trades	103	Tetanus Immunisation	43, 45
Ophthalmic Surgeon, Report of	119	Trilene	40
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	33	Tuberculosis	48, 67
Overcrowding	79	Tuberculosis Death-rate	10
Parentcraft Courses for School Children	41	Tuberculosis Dispensary After - Care Association	48
Partially Sighted Register	117	Tuberculosis Table of Notification	67, 70
Pests	106	Underground Rooms	78
Pethidine	40	Unmarried Mothers and their Children, Care of	20
Pet Animals Act, 1951	105	Vaccination	43, 44, 46
Poliomyelitis, Anterior	63, 64	Venereal Disease	71
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	46	Vital Statistics	10
Population	9	Water Sampling	72
Post-Natal Clinics	20	Water Supply	72
Premature Infants, Care of	25, 27	Welfare Foods	24
Premature Infants and Stillbirths, Table of	25	Welfare of the Blind	116
Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease	63	Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb	115
		Welfare of the Hard of Hearing	116
		Welfare of " Other Classes " of Handicapped Persons	115
		Whooping Cough	63
		Whooping Cough Immunisation	43, 45
		Whooping Cough-Table of Notification	66
		Women's Advisory Clinic	24

HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1958

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor E. A. Busby)

Aldermen :

ALFRED LOVELL
THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART

ALFRED HASLAM
LILIAN MARY MILLER

Councillors :

WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM (*Chairman*)
ALICE JEANETTE BURROWS
AMY LETTICE CURLL HUMPHREYS
EDITH MORRIS
HENRY GEORGE WHEELER (*Vice-Chairman*)
PAULINE DAVIDSON

HERBERT WILLIAMS
PERCY BELCHER
IRIS BOSIER BUTCHER
GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND
HERBERT WILLIAM LEE

Non-Members of the Council :

SAMUEL MARTIN JENNER, M.B.B.S.
E. A. BURTON

CYRIL FRANCIS WRIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
INNES HAROLD PATTISON M.B., B.S.

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1958

Medical Officer of Health :

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health;

G. M. O'DONNELL, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers :

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G.

HARRY IAN LOCKETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

ALBERT MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B. (commenced 1.7.58)

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare :

A. J. H. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Public Analyst :

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. GREEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. SYRAD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :

R. W. BASHFORD

D. V. C. COOPER

A. D. E. HARDING

E. CARSON

G. W. TIPLADY (commenced 1.4.58)

M. CARTER

H. MORTIMORE

S. J. A. HALL (commenced 24.7.58)

D. A. RATCLIFFE (commenced 24.7.58)

R. C. GOSLING (commenced 30.6.58)

Superintendent Health Visitor :

Miss M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Health Visitors :

*Miss H. A. MORTIMER

*Mrs. F. FOSTER

*Miss M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

*Miss J. SMITH

*Miss S. G. HANSFORD

*Miss R. M. UPTON

*Miss E. L. WOODWARD (commenced 1.7.58)

*Mrs. A. ALLISON

Mrs. KINGSLEY (part-time)

*Miss M. E. GRANT

*Miss F. L. GATES

*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

Tuberculosis Visitors :

Mrs. G. R. STONE

Mrs. L. E. MEDWAY

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer;

Miss B. I. HARTLEY

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives :

Miss L. F. MEACHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Municipal Midwives :

Miss E. J. ODELL

Mrs. R. M. TEAL

Miss V. GARRIGAN

Miss F. HOLLAND

Mrs. Y. M. TROTTIER

Miss M. HALL

(commenced 25.11.58)

Premature Baby Nurse :

Miss A. FARAGHER (commenced 1.5.58)

Family Caseworkers :

Miss N. D. R. CALVELEY

Miss H. M. HARRISON

Mental Deficiency Officer :

Miss J. M. ROBB

Psychiatric Welfare Officer :

Mrs. A. J. TREGILLUS

Duly Authorised Officers :

C. E. HOUSE

D. WEBB (relief)

Miss J. M. ROBB (relief)

Chief Clerk :

C. I. AUST

Domestic Help Service:

(Assistant Organisers)

Mrs. D. M. JONES (retired 31.12.58)

Mrs. H. A. FINCH

Mrs. L. R. RUSSELL (part-time)

Miss M. CHURCHILL (commenced 1.12.58)

Occupation Centre :

Miss E. M. BARKAS (Supervisor)

Superintendent, Queen Victoria Institute :

Miss A. M. EDWARDS

Day Nurseries :*Holybrook House:* Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)*Victoria Square:* Mrs. E. S. MABEY (Matron)**Blind Welfare Officer :**

Miss M. L. LOWE

Home Teachers for the Blind :

Miss A. E. SMITH

Mrs. M. E. P. HODGE

Welfare Officer " Other Classes " of Handicapped Persons :

Mrs. J. D. SNOW

Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948 :

D. H. COMERFORD

OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES :**" Woodlands "**

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

" Wychcotes " and " Warren House "

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Superintendent)

" Parkhurst "

Mrs. F. B. McADAM (Superintendent)

" Southern Hill "

Miss A. T. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

" Arthur Clark "

Mrs. A. K. DALE (Superintendent)

" Dysons Wood "

Mrs. I. G. WAKEFIELD (Superintendent)

" Alice Jenkins "

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,
 BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE,
 173/4 FRIAR STREET,
 READING

October, 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1958. Unfortunately there has been delay in its publication owing to the printing dispute.

Detailed comments on various aspects of the Department's work are made in the body of the report and therefore I will not refer to them in this Introduction; my comments will be confined to two matters.

The first is the increased emphasis which has been placed on the work of the Local Authority both under the National Health Service Act and under the National Assistance Act. In many ways the Local Authority's duties under these two Acts are complementary and our work is increasing as the concept grows that as many patients as possible should be treated at home and not in hospital. This may or may not be a sound concept, but its implementation obviously involves the Local Authority in increased expenditure. It is not for me to discuss the principles on which the general grant from the Central Government is based, but I do think it is permissible to say the present indications are that the size of the grant which is made to Reading is such that if we are to maintain and develop the services on the lines which the community and the Central Government seem to desire we will have to find additional money from local funds.

The second point to which I wish to refer briefly is the inauguration of the Organisation and Methods Survey. The final report of this Survey was not available until this year (1959), but I can say now that we were very pleased to co-operate in this work, which was largely experimental, and I am sure that we shall benefit by recommendations made. No doubt also the O. & M. team will also have learned something of the problems of a Health Department.

Once again it is my pleasure to record the continuance of our good relations with the Reading and District Hospital Management Committee,

with General Practitioners in the town, and with Officers of the Local Executive Council.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and to your Committee I would also tender my thanks for your very constant support and understanding of the problems which I have brought to you. It is a great source of reassurance to me to know that I am working with an interested and understanding Committee.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my appreciation of the hard work which has been put in by all members of my staff during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

							1958	1957
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1958)	...	...	...	...	...	...	117,900	118,100
Area Comparability Factor—								
Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.01	1.01
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.95	0.95
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book								
at 31.3.58	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,170	33,831
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,908,949	£2,400,183
Product of a Penny Rate (31.3.58)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£7,700	£8,029
Total cost of Services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee (Medical Services only) for the year ended March 31st, 1958:—								
Expenditure (Revenue)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£372,143	£354,261

								<i>Birth Rate</i>	
*Live Births:—		<i>Total</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>per 1,000 pop.</i>	
Total	1974 (1818)	1024 (950)	950 (868)	950 (868)	16.74	(15.39)	
Legitimate	1852 (1701)	962 (887)	890 (814)	890 (814)	15.71	(14.40)	
Illegitimate	122 (117)	62 (63)	60 (54)	60 (54)	1.03	(0.99)	
*Stillbirths									
Number of domiciliary stillbirths	6	(8)	
*Stillbirths rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths							19.86	(25.20)	
*Total live and stillbirths							2014	(1865)	
*Infant deaths:—									
Total	43	(38)	
Legitimate	42	(36)	
Illegitimate	1	(2)	
*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—									
Total	21.78	(20.90)	
Legitimate	22.68	(21.16)	
Illegitimate	8.20	(17.09)	
*Neo-natal	16.72	(15.95)	
Deaths of infants under four weeks							33	(29)	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births							6.18	(6.44)	

*Maternal deaths (including abortion):—

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(1
From sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—
From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—

*Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ... — (0.54)

*Deaths—Net ... 1255 (1273)

*Death rate per 1,000 population ... 10.64 (10.78)

Deaths from cancer (all ages) ... 197 (221)

measles (all ages) ... — (—

whooping cough (all ages) ... — (—

diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... — (1

Tuberculosis deaths:..

All forms ... 8 (7

Pulmonary ... 8 (6

Non-pulmonary ... — (1

Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population:—

All forms ... 0.07 (0.06

Pulmonary ... 0.07 (0.05

Non-pulmonary ... — (0.01

Number of marriages ... 1062 (1014

* Registrar-General's Returns

*All figures in brackets refer to (1957)***Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas**

	Reading	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population—		
Births—		
Live births	16.74	16.4
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births	19.86	21.6
Deaths—		
All causes	10.64	11.7
Rates per 1,000 Live Births—		
Deaths—		
All causes under 1 year of age	21.78	22.5

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1958

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens						Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Reading University		
	Rainfall in inches	Temperature				Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine	
		Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum				Mean Humidity
January ...	2.69	56	21	44.93	33	91.05	1.52	18	
February ...	2.74	59	26	48.57	34.57	90.56	1.67	17	
March ...	1.43	68	22	47.74	32	94	3.32	28	
April ...	1.1	73	27	54.33	37.2	88.3	4.88	35	
May ...	1.71	81	36	64.67	44.61	84.16	6.09	39	
June ...	5.14	80	43	69.13	49.3	84.06	5.19	31	
July ...	2.34	84	43	72.83	53.09	87.5	6.48	40	
August ...	3.47	82	47	71.22	53.33	90.96	3.84	26	
September ...	3.91	79	40	70.26	51.56	99.2	4.31	34	
October ...	2.36	65	37	59.67	45.27	94.32	3.02	28	
November ...	2.52	58	31	49.5	38.36	97.6	1.53	17	
December ...	2.58	55	29	44.4	34.77	95.19	0.88	11	
Year ...							1303.2	29	

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE, ETC.

[illegible]

Employment. I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information.:—

The number of insured employees in the Reading area was estimated to be 7,700 in June, 1957, the latest date for which statistics are available. The main industries in which they are employed are:—

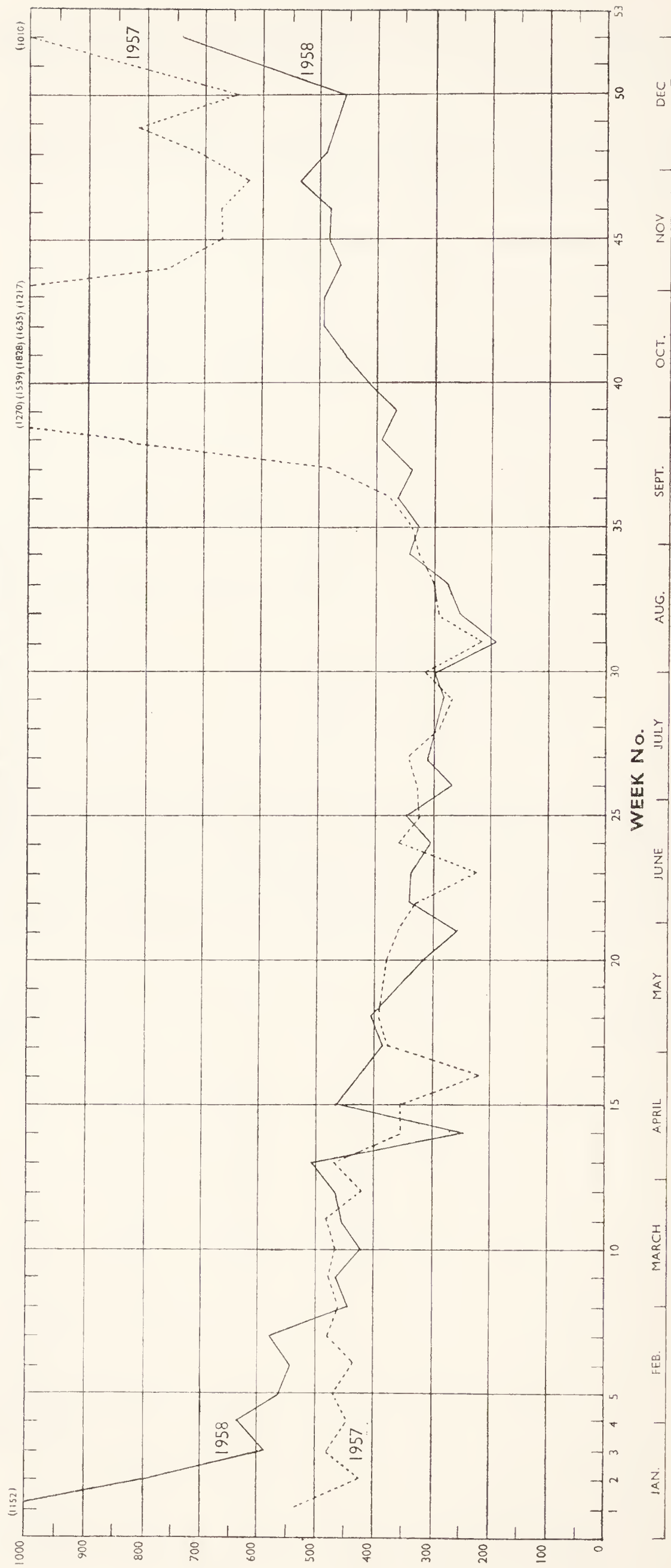
Agriculture and Horticulture
 Biscuit Manufacture
 Brewing and malting
 Building and Civil Engineering
 Distributive trades
 Engineering (including aircraft and metal goods manufacture,
 vehicle manufacture and repair)
 Furniture and shop fittings
 Government Service (National and Local)
 Hotel and Catering
 Printing and Publishing
 Transport (road and rail)

During 1958 the employment position remained basically good although there was an increase in unemployment and a reduction in the number of vacancies outstanding particularly for semi-skilled and unskilled workers. The demand for skilled craftsmen in engineering and aircraft manufacture remained heavy. The percentage of the estimated total of the insured employees in the area who were registered as unemployed varied between 1.4% and 1.6% compared with the National rates of 2% and 2.4%.

The numbers of persons registered as unemployed at quarterly dates during 1958 are given below:—

					<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Totals</i>
March	...	...	...	...	713	254	24	5	996
June	...	...	...	...	643	224	21	5	893
September	...	...	...	...	622	248	40	36	946
December	...	...	...	...	665	323	16	12	1,016

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK, 1958 (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	All ages		Under 1		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 and Over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	2	1	—	—
2—Tuberculosis (other) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—Syphilitic disease ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
4—Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8—Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach ..	18	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	3	—	6	2
11—" " Lung, bronchus ..	41	34	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	17	2	10	3	7	1
12—" " Breast ..	26	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	10	—	8	—	6
13—" " Uterus ..	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	2
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	100	50	50	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	13	28	11	6	22	14
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	9	6	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	1	—
16—Diabetes ..	10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	3
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	207	77	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	21	26	34	36	75
18—Coronary disease, angina ..	184	112	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	37	7	36	18	34	46
19—Hypertension with heart disease ..	15	9	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	2	4	3
20—Other heart disease ..	189	66	123	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	9	11	15	22	42	87
21—Other circulatory disease ..	64	27	37	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	6	3	16	30
22—Influenza ..	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	—
23—Pneumonia ..	89	45	44	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	14	5	10	8	18	27
24—Bronchitis ..	49	35	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	14	4	15	7
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ..	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	18	13	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	6	2	4	3
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2
28—Nephritis and nephrosis ..	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	2
29—Hyperplasia of prostate ..	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—Congenital malformations ..	14	7	7	4	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	116	51	65	16	10	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	3	4	8	8	10	20	31
33—Motor vehicle accidents ..	13	10	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	2	2	—	—	—
34—All other accidents ..	22	8	14	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	2	1	—	2	2	8
35—Suicide ..	13	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	6	—	1	—	2
36—Homicide and operation of war ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1255	595	660	22	21	—	—	8	2	5	3	25	19	137	128	159	135	239	352
		1255		43		—		10		8		44		265		294		591	

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

(A) GENERAL

July 5th, 1958, saw the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the National Health Service Act. This is a comparatively short time in the history of the great changes which it has effected and, therefore, any comments one may make about the working of the Act must be of an interim nature. My own feeling is that it is unfortunate that we have heard so much about the difficulties and alleged deficiencies of the new National Medical Service (for it is mainly a medical treatment service which is provided) and too little about the very definite progress which has been made. It may well be that a lot of this *malaise* results directly from the fact that too great a change was carried out at one time. But that was the decision of Parliament and it is not for me to comment on this. My main impression of the change which has taken place is the increasing importance which is being attached to the work of the Local Health Authority. At one time some people would have us believe that Local Health Authorities played a comparatively minor part in the implementation of the Act. During the last three or four years there has been increasing evidence of the importance of our work in providing those domiciliary services which shorten, or possibly prevent, the stay of a person in hospital. Important though the hospital service may be, and glamorous as may be some of its work, the conception is emerging that a stay in hospital is merely an episode in a patient's life and that the greater and most important part of his treatment lies in his own home. Up to now, most of our work has been in relation to physical illnesses but the new Mental Health Bill is an example of this "new look" as applied to illnesses of the mind.

Whether or not the new proposals swing the pendulum over too far remains to be seen. In my report last year I mentioned that I had considerable reservations about many of the recommendations contained in the report of the Royal Commission on the Law relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency.

I think that this is an appropriate moment at which to mention one particular point of administrative practice, viz., the administration of Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Part III embraces the duties of Local Authorities and includes two main duties—the provision of residential care of the aged and infirm, and the welfare of handicapped persons. It is obvious that these are two duties which concern very closely the M.O.H. and, therefore, it is of the greatest importance that they should be administered as part of his department. Indeed, I would almost go so far as to say that any Department which does not administer the services under both Part III of the National Health Service Act and Part III of the National Assistance Act is incomplete. Tradition has many advantages but it does have its disadvantages, and if it had been possible to start with a completely clean slate I feel sure that we would never have seen the enactment of Section 28 of the National Health Service Act and Section 2 of the National Assistance Act as two separate entities. The amalgamation of these two Acts under one Local Authority administration does mean more work for the M.O.H., but I feel that it is well worth the time and trouble involved.

(B) PARTICULAR SERVICES

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

No steps have been taken to provide health centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act. During the year work commenced on the new infant welfare and school clinic at Tilehurst and this was formally opened by the Mayoress at the beginning of

59. This clinic will replace the old clinic at the Tilehurst Village Hall which was started as long ago as 1923. Tilehurst is a growing area and there is no doubt that new premises were required.

I am indeed grateful to the Committee for their attitude in trying to provide new clinics to replace the old type of hired church halls. Much good work has been done in such premises but much more could have been done in purpose-built buildings.

We have recently had good news about the proposed new clinic at Emmer Green. This will be a small clinic which will serve a comparatively restricted and well defined residential area, but I am sure that it will be a great improvement on the present arrangements.

Incidentally, I should place on record the new policy of the Committee in that they would prefer to build a larger number of clinics which are rather smaller than hitherto in order to reduce the amount of waiting time which mothers have to spend to attend these clinics. This new arrangement, if and when it is fulfilled, will probably involve somewhat of a strain on our manpower but I am quite sure that it will provide great benefits for mothers and children who attend our clinics.

SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

Infant Mortality and Stillbirths

It will be seen that infantile mortality rate was 21.78 per thousand live births, and the neo-natal mortality was 00.00. The stillbirth rate was 19.86 per thousand births. The following figures give the peri-natal mortality in recent years:—

	I.M.R.	S.B.R.	P.N.R.
1948	34.6	24.76	41.90
1949	26.2	21.42	36.57
1950	26.1	22.75	38.84
1951	28.95	20.19	34.91
1952	23.19	26.52	34.98
1953	19.70	22.75	32.67
1954	29.20	17.28	33.39
1955	23.60	23.00	37.48
1956	18.13	18.00	30.01
1957	20.90	25.20	38.07
1958	21.78	19.86	34.26

The table on page 37 gives the cause of death of infants during the first year of life.

During the year we were happy to co-operate with the National Birthday Trust in its special investigation of peri-natal mortality.

Ante-natal Clinics

Most of the medical ante-natal attention to patients is given by general practitioners in their own surgeries but the use of our clinics by domiciliary midwives continues successfully and is well appreciated. Medical sessions now appear to be confined to the extremely useful one of taking samples of blood at the request of general practitioners for examination at the Pathological Laboratory.

The midwives' sessions continued to be held on the following times:—

Star Lane	Monday afternoons (Municipal Midwives)
	Friday afternoons (for Q.V.I.)
	Saturday afternoons (ante-natal exercises) (Municipal Midwives)
Southcote	Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
Whitley	Monday afternoons (Q.V.I. Midwives)
	Tuesday afternoons (Municipal Midwives)

Last year I reported on the opening of an ante-natal clinic session for the general practioner maternity unit at Dellwood. This clinic is staffed by the nursing staff of Dellwood although we give all the help we can and a member of my staff is generally in attendance. I am pleased to report that this has proved an outstanding success and I am sure that it has filled one of the gaps in the existing ante-natal arrangements.

The following table gives particulars of attendances throughout the year at medical sessions at Whitley and Star Lane Municipal Ante-natal Clinics:—

Clinic	Number of Sessions held	Ante-natal		Post-natal
		New Patients	Re-attendances	
Star Lane ...	51	2	4	Nil
Whitley ...	49	55	181	37
Total ...	100	57	185	37

The attendance at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	No. of Sessions held	New Patients	Re-attendances
Star Lane	49	203	1,333
Whitley	52	118	845
Southcote	103	186	974
Total	204	507	3,152

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

Blood Tests. Our practice of performing venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Kahn tests for general practitioners has continued.

The following table gives particulars:—

Blood tests on:—

Clinic patients at Star Lane	...	...	...	...	1
General Practioner patients at Star Lane	...	...	...	...	912
Clinic patients at Whitley	...	...	...	...	90
General Practitioner patients at Whitley	...	...	...	...	103

SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1909

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1909	84,085	1,744	20.74	166	95.2	4	4	4.6	962	11.44
1910	84,355	1,673	19.83	126	75.3	3	4	4.2	844	10.00
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.3	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	—	—	—	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	—	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	—	—	—	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	—	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	—	1	0.58	1,246	10.53
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	—	—	—	1,358	11.5
1956	117,900	1,765	14.97	32	18.13	—	—	—	1,348	11.43
1957	118,100	1,818	15.39	38	20.90	—	1	0.54	1,273	10.78
1958	117,900	1,974	16.74	43	21.78	—	—	—	1,255	10.64

Post-natal Clinics. There are no special sessions for post-natal examinations and the work is carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions, as would be expected by virtue of the fact that nearly all the ante-natal work is carried out by the patient's own doctor, few women attend municipal clinics for their post-natal examinations. During the year 37 women attended municipal clinics for post-natal examinations.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children. This work continues to be carried out in collaboration with the Reading & Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and with other agencies. If necessary, cases can be dealt with by the department's own staff. We have also collaborated closely with the Children's Officer, more especially when there was any question of adoption or fostering of the child when the mother was ready to resume work. The Welfare Worker of the Reading & Bradfield Moral Welfare Association has been good enough to supply the following information:—

During 1958 the number of new cases in the Borough of Reading involving illegitimate children and their parents which were referred to this Association for help was 88. In addition, 51 cases involving illegitimate children were brought forward from 1957 as they were still receiving help.

589 interviews took place at St. Mary's Gate, and 433 home visits were paid.

Dr. Barnardo's Home and the Children's Society continued to make grants in aid to several children, and this help is very much appreciated by those who receive it. In one case the grant has done much to stabilise a shaky domestic situation, and has prevented the break-up of a marriage.

Friends have continued to help with gifts of clothing, cots and prams, and such help is always welcome.

This Association has acted as intermediary for Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Children's Society in collecting and forwarding contributions from parents whose children are in the care of these Societies.

A number of girls went to Mother & Baby Homes and were helped by their stay in the Homes. It is so necessary that they should have time to think quietly about the future of their child and to come to an unhurried decision, and going to a Mother & Baby Home allows them to do this.

Moral Welfare work is not done in isolation, but in co-operation with other religious and social agencies and with the local Authorities, and the help and co-operation received from the Public Health Department is very much appreciated.

<i>Annual Record of Cases for 1958</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Total</i>
(A) Involving illegitimate children and their parents	88	51	139
(B) Involving Children and Young People ...	9	5	14
(C) Matrimonial and Family Problems ...	6	—	6
	<hr/> 103	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 159

**Ages of Mothers on referral*

14 years	1
15 „	3
16 „	4
17 „	4
18 and over	76

**Domicile of Mothers*

Home in area	65
Home elsewhere	23

**Marital Status (Mother)*

Single	...	...	...	76
Married	...	...	...	7
Widowed	...	...	...	1
Divorced	...	...	...	4

**Nationality (Mother)*

British Isles	...	...	...	75
Commonwealth	...	...	...	10
U.S.A.	...	...	...	—
Others	...	...	...	3

**Marital Status (Putative Fathers)*

Single	...	...	...	63
Married	...	...	...	22
Widowed	...	...	...	—
Divorced	...	...	...	3

**Nationality (P.F.)*

British Isles	...	...	...	62
Commonwealth	...	...	...	13
U.S.A.	...	...	...	6
Others	...	...	...	7

**†Details of Maternity Cases (A) above—*

New *Old* *Total*

Children in care of mother (at home, in family, with her in post, etc.)	...	...	30	28	58
Children in touch with mother (fostered, in Nursery, etc.)	...	...	4	1	5
Children taken into care of L.A.	...	...	5	5	10
Children taken by Voluntary Society	...	...	1	5	6
Children placed for adoption	...	...	17	12	29
Mothers placed in Voluntary Homes	...	...	19	5	24
Mothers placed in L.A. Homes, Burnell House	...	...	6	1	7
Mothers still in Home with children	...	...	3	—	3
No. of Maintenance grants from L.A.	...	...	21	6	27

**New Cases only*

†Current cases, new and old, on which any work has been done during the year.

Summary of New Cases for 1958

Children in care of mother	...	...	30
Children in touch with mother	...	...	4
Children in care of L.A.	...	...	5
Children in care of Voluntary Society	...	...	1
Children placed for adoption	...	...	17
Mothers with children still in Home	...	...	3
Mothers moved before birth of child	...	...	2
Abortions, Miscarriage, Stillborn, Died	...	...	6
Babies not yet born	...	...	20
			—
			88

Infant Welfare Clinics. It is estimated that 85.8% of the children born during the year attend one or other of these clinics during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances:—

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attendances	Average attendances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road, Reading— Monday p.m.	49	114	1,813	376	259	2,448	50
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading— Tuesday a.m.	32	7	387	132	108	627	20
Tuesday p.m.	52	135	1,889	593	287	2,669	51
Thursday p.m.	51	103	1,554	415	256	2,225	44
Tilehurst Village Hall, Tilehurst— Monday p.m.	49	103	2,033	462	259	2,754	56
Tuesday p.m.	36	24	497	40	16	533	15
Thursday p.m.	51	104	2,316	441	243	3,000	59
Star Lane, London Street, Reading— Tuesday p.m.	52	155	2,317	336	163	2,916	56
Wednesday p.m.	53	151	1,754	343	111	2,208	42
Whitley Clinic— Wednesday p.m.	53	167	2,261	368	229	2,858	54
Friday p.m.	50	86	1,637	379	132	2,148	43
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield— Thursday p.m.	51	88	1,568	377	143	2,088	41
West Memorial Institute, Caversham— Tuesday p.m.	52	121	1,754	367	219	2,340	45
Thursday p.m.	51	92	1,647	384	268	2,299	45
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading— Monday p.m.	49	127	1,954	439	148	2,541	52
Friday p.m.	50	119	2,346	438	215	2,999	60
St. Barnabas' Hall, Emmer Green Wednesday (alt) p.m. ...	26	41	492	188	87	767	29
Southcote Clinic— Wednesday p.m.	53	75	1,108	367	209	1,684	32
Friday p.m.	50	44	923	189	159	1,271	25
Totals	910	1,856	30,250	6,634	3,511	40,395	44.25

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1958

Centres provided by	Number of centres provided at end of year	Number of child welfare sessions now held per month at centres in col. 2	Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority during the year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age (4)	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :			Total attendances during the year
				1958	1957	1956-53		Under 1 year	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
(a) L.H.A.	10	70	1,856	1,658	1,371	1,252	4,281	30,250	6,634	3,511	40,395

Welfare Foods. The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily throughout the year. During 1958 we distributed the following from the main depot at 22 The Forbury:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20-oz. tin)	365
National Dried Milk Full-Cream (20-oz. tin)	14,214
Orange Juice (bottles)	38,869
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	3,365
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	5,215

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the year and are in addition to the preceding:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20-oz. tin)	90
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Half-Cream (16-oz. packets) ...	1,368
National Dried Milk Full-Cream (20-oz. tin)	8,188
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full-Cream	25,440
Ministry Orange Juice (bottles)	47,771
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	4,176
Ministry Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	4,227
Ministry Vitamin Capsules (packets)	2,894
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles) ...	2,784

Women's Advisory Clinic. Arrangements continued as previously, viz., the clinic is administered by a voluntary body which has free use of Corporation clinic premises and receives a small financial subsidy from the Council. The following table gives particulars:—

Star Lane

Patients who attended the clinic	2,800
Patients examined by Medical Officer	1,716
New patients	547
Patients sent by doctor	217

Weight at birth (1)	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital *			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total (2)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (3)	Survived 28 days (4)	Total (5)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (6)	Survived 28 days (7)	Total (8)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (9)	Survived 28 days (10)	Total (11)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (12)	Survived 28 days (13)	Total (14)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (15)	Survived 28 days (16)
(a) 3-lb. 4-oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	20	9	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
(b) Over 3-lb. 4-oz. up to and including 4-lb. 6-oz. (1,500-2,000 gms.)	18	1	16	1	—	1	3	—	3	1	—	1	—	4	—
(c) Over 4-lb. 6-oz. up to and including 4-lb. 15-oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.)	13	—	13	5	—	5	2	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	1
(d) Over 4-lb. 15-oz. up to and including 5-lb. 8-oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.)	29	1	26	29	—	29	3	2	1	19	—	19	—	5	—
Totals	80	11	62	36	1	35	8	2	6	21	—	21	1	11	1
														6	

* The Group under this heading will include cases which may be born in one hospital and transferred to another

Born January to December, 1954

REPORT AT FOUR YEARS OF AGE

Follow-up of 45 out of 124 total

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	2	1	2	2	1	—	—	
Group B	10	9	10	10	1	—	—	
Group C	7	7	7	7	—	—	—	
Group D	27	25	25	27	2	2	—	

Born January to December, 1955

REPORT AT THREE YEARS OF AGE

Follow-up of 54 out of 74 total

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	6	6	5	—	—	1	
Group B	6	6	6	6	—	—	—	
Group C	9	9	9	9	—	—	—	
Group D	30	30	30	30	—	—	—	

Born January to December, 1956

REPORT AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	6	5	5	—	1	1	1 kernicterus of prematurity
Group B	4	4	4	4	—	—	—	
Group C	10	10	10	10	—	—	—	
Group D	50	47	49	49	3	1	1	1 with hydrocephalis

Born January to December, 1957
REPORT AT ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	
Group B	13	12	12	12	1	1	1	1 Mongol
Group C	20	20	20	20	—	—	—	
Group D	43	41	41	43	2	2	—	

Born January to June 1958
REPORT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	3	3	3	3	—	—	—	
Group B	8	7	7	7	1	1	1	1 Microcephalic
Group C	6	6	6	6	—	—	—	
Group D	31	30	31	31	1	—	—	

Care of Premature Infants. During the year Miss Barrack resigned and was replaced by Miss A. M. Faragher. The general plan of the arrangements continued as previously and with the same good results and the same good co-operation from the staff of Battle Hospital.

The foregoing tables give the results of our follow-up of certain of these premature babies.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. I am obliged to Mr. G. H. Fisher, Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. for the following notes:—

The year ending December 31st, 1958 was a busy one for the Reading & District Branch of the N.S.P.C.C.

Throughout the branch a total of 170 cases were reported and dealt with and the children involved numbered 459.

In the Borough of Reading 69 cases were reported and dealt with and these were classified as: Neglect: 37; Ill-treatment: 8; Moral Danger: 2; Beyond Control: 1; Advice Sought: 21;

The children involved numbered 213.

Nearly 1,400 supervision and miscellaneous visits were made to cases and 19 enquiries were made on behalf of other branches.

We would like to thank the Police, the Children's Department, School and other officials for the help and co-operation they have given. We warmly thank them and the members of the public.

The prompt reporting of cases does a great service to the children concerned and often enables the Inspector to prevent serious harm overtaking the child.

It has never been the policy of the Society to prosecute except in extreme cases when all other measures have failed and we are pleased that in no case has this been necessary during 1958.

Day Nurseries. Our general policy in respect of the selection of children for admission to day nurseries continued, viz., we only admit children whose mothers have to go out to work for some reason or other or where there is temporary illness in the home.

In my report for 1957 I mentioned the fact that we would have to vacate Victoria Square Nursery by April 1st, 1959. Unfortunately, the closure of Victoria Square Nursery has now taken effect. We were all very sorry indeed to see this very happy and very useful nursery closed down. Steps are being taken to put into operation a Daily Minders Scheme for those children who cannot be admitted to Holybrook House Nursery but nothing definite has been achieved so far.

The following details relate to the position as at December 31st, 1958.

Number of Approved Places		Number of Children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance for year	
0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
30	60	21	42	22	37

**Daily Average Attendance for each month of the year, 1968
(Monday to Friday)**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Holybrook House ...	* 35	38	40	37	38	39	38	34	40	36	† 33	33	441
Victoria Square ...	+ 20	22	28	27	22	23	25	§ 16	§ 21	22	20	20	266
Totals ...	55	60	68	64	60	62	63	50	61	58	53	53	707

* Scarlet Fever † Chicken Pox ‡ Influenza § Measles

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children. Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

Pre-School Children. The effect of Whitley Dental Clinic being closed for the major part of the year and opened only on a part-time basis, for the remainder, has caused a slight decrease in the number of pre-school children attending the clinic. It is interesting to note, however, that an appreciable number of mothers who attend with their young children attended the clinic during their schooldays.

The whole question is the lack of staff, as when the clinic was open full-time the children could be dentally inspected when brought to the Welfare Clinic by their mother. It is hoped that we will be able to secure enough staff to re-open Whitley Clinic as, in this area, large Welfare Clinics are held. The number seen during the past year have all been seen by me at the main clinic in Queen's Road. This, unfortunately, means rather lengthy travelling for a mother with small children and has an adverse affect on the numbers attending.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers. The above remarks apply equally to this part of our work. There were fewer applications for treatment this year and the amount of treatment required was not excessive.

The first two tables gives details of the number who attended and the nature of the treatment given, while the last one lays out the work in slightly more detail.

NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE, 1958

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	9	9	9	6
Children under five ...	102	102	102	97

FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scaling and gum treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided Full upper or lower	Dentures provided Partial upper or lower	Radio-graphs
Expectant and nursing mothers ...	3	3	—	—	8	2	3	3	—
Children under five ...	—	11	74	—	101	26	—	—	—

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-school	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Inspected	102	4	5
Found to require treatment ...	102	4	5
Treated	102	4	5
Attendances	150	8	11
Extractions	101	8	—
Local Anaesthetics	25	—	—
General Anaesthetics	26	2	—
Fillings	11	2	1
Clean and Polish	9	1	2
Dressings	15	2	1
Silver Nitrate	74	—	—
Full Dentures	—	—	3
Part Dentures	—	—	3
Discharged	97	3	3

SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

This service is provided partly by directly employed midwives (Municipal midwives) and partly by midwives employed by a voluntary agency (Queen Victoria Institute). In addition, the Q.V.I. midwives are assisted by pupils from Battle Hospital who are taking Part 2 of the C.M.B. Examination. The total establishment of midwives was thirteen but in view of the increasing amount of domiciliary midwifery which is taking place the Council agreed to increase this establishment to fifteen. Unfortunately, it has proved impossible to recruit additional midwives and at the time of writing this report we are short of three domiciliary midwives.

Reading and district is attracting a large number of young married people, a fact which results not only in an absolute increase of the population to be served but also an increase in the proportion of people of child-bearing age. This is reflected in the continuing pressure on the local midwifery services—whether hospital, general practitioner or domiciliary. There appears to be an increasing demand by the public for confinement away from their homes though, in quite a number of instances, the home circumstances are perfectly satisfactory.

The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Cranbrook, is at present considering midwifery services of the country and no doubt will give an authoritative opinion on the advisability or otherwise of domiciliary confinements for the normal patient. The medical profession is itself divided on this topic but whatever their views may be they are in complete agreement that it is potentially dangerous to the mother and, especially, to the child for a woman to be confined in a hospital or nursing home which is either relatively or absolutely overcrowded. For this reason we have to continue with our system of selection of normal cases for confinement at general practitioner maternity homes. This selection is done personally and very carefully by the Supervisor of Midwives. Owing to the great demand for this type of accommodation and owing to factors which I have already mentioned it is inevitable that many applicants will be disappointed.

I would like to pay tribute to the very meticulous and equitable manner in which Miss Meacham has carried out this selection—a procedure which brings a great deal in the way of opprobrium and very little in the way of popularity. It may be that the Regional Hospital Board will provide additional hospital and general practitioner maternity accommodation but until that takes place I see very little prospect of improvement in the present position—indeed, I think it will probably get worse as the shortage of midwives increases. This shortage of midwives is affecting both the

hospital and the domiciliary services and though it reflects the decrease in popularity of nursing as a profession it is, in the main, a refusal of nurses to take up midwifery as a career. Quite a large number of nurses become fully qualified midwives but very few indeed of them practise domiciliary midwifery. It is interesting, although tragic, to have to report that of all the pupils who have passed through our hands during the last ten years not a single one has evinced any desire to take up domiciliary midwifery as a career. In fact, most of them have no intention of practising midwifery once they have qualified—they are merely taking the examination because its possession is necessary for promotion to the higher posts in their profession.

Midwifery is an exacting and tiring occupation and although it is not for me to comment on matters of remuneration in this report I would just mention the fact that a fully qualified midwife, who has undergone three or four years' hospital training to become a State Registered Nurse, plus twelve months' training to become a midwife (including possibly several appointments in between) would attain the maximum salary of £641 per annum. A female general clerk receives £530 (maximum) per annum for working 38 hours per week, and a teacher, after two years training, will receive a maximum salary of £891 per annum in addition to three months holiday each year and a very short working week. The facts surely speak for themselves.

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1938	1,552	1,000	64.4
1939	1,564	897	57.7
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1951	1,805	635	35.1
1952	1,767	614	34.7
1953	1,700	601	35.3
1954	1,678	615	36.6
1955	1,707	603	35.2
1956	1,784	699	39.2
1957	1,849	828	44.8
1958	1,970	878	44.6

Stillbirths. There were 38 stillbirths reported during the year as compared with 46 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand births during recent years has been as follows:—

1954	...	...	17.28
1955	...	...	23.00
1956	...	...	19.00
1957	...	...	25.20
1958	...	...	19.86

An analysis of these 38 stillbirths revealed the following:—

24 took place in Battle Hospital

6 occurred in Dellwood

1 occurred in Wokingham

2 occurred at the Chiltern Maternity Home

5 were domiciliary cases delivered on the district.

The probable causes were as follows:—

Dellwood

Placental insufficiency	...	...	...	...	...	2
No known cause	...	...	...	...	...	1
Delay in 2nd stage of labour	...	...	...	...	...	1
A.P.H.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anencephalic	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 6

Wokingham

Anencephalic	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 1

Chiltern Maternity Home

Placental insufficiency	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 2

Battle Hospital

A.P.H.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Anencephalic	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No known cause	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Placental insufficiency	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Abnormalities	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ascites	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pre-Eclamptic mother	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fenestrated foramen ovale	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No investigation made	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hydrocephalic	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anoxia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prolapsed cord	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/> 24

Domiciliary

No known cause	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anencephalic	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breech	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							<hr/> 5

Maternal Deaths. There were no maternal deaths of Reading residents during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Of 28 cases reported 20 were Reading residents. Investigations revealed the following:—

Private Case

Mastitis	1
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Chiltern Maternity Home

Uterine infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Urinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Engorgement of breasts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pyrexia unknown origin	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Battle Hospital

Pyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Uterine infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Urinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
P.U.O.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Domiciliary

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Upper respiratory infection			...	...	...	...	...	1
Cervical Adenitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slipped Disc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mastitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								28

Once again I must repeat the comment that the new definition of puerperal pyrexia has not been altogether satisfactory.

Ophthalmia neonatorum. No cases were reported during the year.

Relaxation Class Figures. Total attendances during 1958: 903. Total number of patients joining class during 1958: 135. All patients resident in County Borough of Reading.

Staphylococcal infection of the Newborn. Our investigation into this subject continued in collaboration with Dr. Woods of the Public Health Laboratory

Service. Altogether 107 cases were investigated, of which 17 showed no significant findings.

The findings in the other cases were as follows:—

Baby's eye, coagulase positive, staph.	12
Baby's eye, diptheroids	2
Baby's eye, umbilicus, mother and pupil midwife, nose. S.C.P. ...	1
Baby's eye, mixed growth	8
Baby's eye and nose. S.C.P.	8
Baby's eye and nose mixed growth	1
Baby's eye, nose and hand. S.C.P.	3
Baby's eye, hand, nose, mother's nose. S.C.P.	2
Baby's eye. S.C.N.	2
Baby's eye and skin. S.C.P.	2
Baby's skin, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, hand, skin and umbilicus. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, nose and umbilicus. S.C.P.	1
Baby's nose, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's spot and nose. S.C.P.	2
Baby's umbilicus, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye and hand. S.C.P.	1
Baby's finger. S.C.P.	2
Baby's finger and face. S.C.N.	1
Baby's nose, umbilicus, hand and spot, mother's nose. S.C.N. ...	1
Pupil midwife, throat. S.C.P.	1
Baby's finger and nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, mother's nose. S.C.N.	1
Baby's hand and nose, mother's nose and throat. S.C.N.	1
Baby's nose and mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, mother's nose and throat. S.C.P.	2
Pupil midwife, nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's face, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's nose, skin and umbilicus. S.C.P.	2
Baby's finger, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, skin and umbilicus. S.C.P.	1
Baby's spot. S.C.P.	2
Baby's finger, hand, mother's nose and throat. S.C.P.	1
Baby's umbilicus. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, hand, umbilicus and nose. S.C.P.	2
Baby's hand and eye, mother's throat. S.C.P.	1
Baby's skin. Staph. Albus	1
Baby's spot, mother's nose and throat. S.C.P.	1
Baby's spot, umbilicus and skin, mother's nose and throat. S.C.P. ...	1
Baby's eye, nose and hand, mother's nose and throat mixed growth ...	1
Baby's eye and nose, mother's nose. S.C.P.	4
Baby's nose and hand. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, pupil midwife nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, hand and nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's eye, spot, hand, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's bleb hand and nose. S.C.P.	1
Baby's bleb nose and umbilicus. S.C.P.	2
Baby's bleb hand, nose and umbilicus. S.C.P.	1
Baby's nose, mother's nose. S.C.P.	1

S.C.P.=Coagulase positive
S.C.N.=Coagulase negative

Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)

Births

Male	...	1,549	Legitimate	...	2,875	Live	...	2,917
Female	...	1,440	Illegitimate	...	114	Still	...	72

Weights

2-lb. 3-oz. or under	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
2-lb. 4-oz.—3-lb. 4-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
3-lb. 5-oz.—4-lb. 6-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
4-lb. 7-oz.—4-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
5-lb. 0-oz.—5-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
5-lb. 8-oz.—5-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
6-lb. 0-oz.—6-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
6-lb. 8-oz.—6-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	432
7-lb. 0-oz.—7-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	530
7-lb. 8-oz. or over	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,234

Place of Birth

Domiciliary	...	...	...	...	...	...	885
Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,330
H.M.C. Maternity Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	505
Contractual	...	...	...	...	...	...	209

Delwood

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	...	...	...	...	408
Number of patients delivered by doctors	...	...	...	...	...	99
Number of infants wholly breast fed	...	...	...	...	...	488
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough (based on notifications)

Births

Male	...	1,023	Legitimate	...	1,897	Live	...	1,932
Female	...	947	Illegitimate	...	73	Still	...	38

Weights

2-lb. 3-oz. or under	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
2-lb. 4-oz.—3-lb. 4-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
3-lb. 5-oz.—4-lb. 6-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
4-lb. 7-oz.—4-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
5-lb. 0-oz.—5-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
5-lb. 8-oz.—5-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
6-lb. 0-oz.—6-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	235
6-lb. 8-oz.—6-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
7-lb. 0-oz.—7-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	...	382
7-lb. 8-oz. or over	...	...	...	...	...	...	825

Place of Birth

Born in Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,899
Outside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	71

Domiciliary

Inside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	881
Outside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Hospital

Battle (booked)	430
Other	13

H.M.C. Maternity Homes

Dellwood	425
Wallingford	6
Townlands	26
Wokingham	25
Sandleford	1

Contractual (Arrangements with nursing homes)

Chiltern	161
Other	—
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor	221
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only	660

PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
24	2	—	2
25	—	—	—
26	3	3	6
27	—	2	2
28	4	11	15
29	2	1	3
30	6	6	12
31	4	2	6
32	9	15	24
33	1	4	5
34	17	11	28
35	7	12	19
36	50	39	89
37	44	41	85
38	116	76	192
39	111	72	183
40	1,415	755	2,170
41	59	19	78
42	34	15	49
43	12	4	16
44	3	2	5
	1,899	1,090	2,989

The following is an analysis of the domiciliary confinements carried out by midwives employed by the Corporation:—

Municipal midwives	...	...	...	417
Q.V.I. midwives (Borough residents only)	...	...	...	465
Q.V.I. midwives (Non-Borough residents)	...	...	...	75

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1958

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Other circulatory diseases	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	16	1	2	—	19	1	—	1	1	22
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	—	—	—	8	1	1	—	—	10
All other Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Totals ...	29	2	2	1	34	5	2	2	1	44

		Number of Midwives practising in the area of the Local Super- vising Authority at the end of the year		
		Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Total
(a)	Midwives employed by the Authority	6	—	6
(b)	Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	5	—	5
(ii)	Otherwise (including Hospi- tals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	30	30
(ii)	Otherwise	—	—	—
(d)	Midwives in Private Practice (in- cluding Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	—	7	7
Total ...		11	37	48

Number of Deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year

	Domiciliary Cases					Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked				
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (4)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (5)			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority ...	2	1	120	296	419	—	
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :—							
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ...	—	2	94	361	457	—	
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	1,792	
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ...	—	—	2	—	2	269	
Totals ...	2	3	216	657	878	2,061	

	Number of Domiciliary Midwives practising in the area at end of year who were qualified to administer inhalational analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board (2)	Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of inhalational analgesics in use at end of year			Number of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year			Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year	
		Gas and air (3)	" Trilene " (4)	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child
					Gas and air (5)	" Trilene " (6)		Gas and air (7)	" Trilene " (8)
(1)								(9)	(10)
(a) Domiciliary Midwives employed directly by the Local Health Authority	6	7	7		60	112		71	146
(b) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Section 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority	5	6	4		32	65		36	125
(c) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Section 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—		—	—		—	—
(d) Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or employed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—		—	—		—	—
Totals ...	11	13	11		92	177		107	271

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The shortage of Health Visitors continues. During the year three-whole-time Health Visitor—School Nurses left the area and two have joined the staff—Miss Woodward, who commenced duties in July, and Miss Baylis in December.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	...	...	11
Part-time Health Visitor/School Nurse	...	...	1
Whole-time School Nurses	...	...	2
Part-time School Nurses (temporary)	...	...	3
Tuberculosis Visitors	...	...	2
Vacancies	...	...	7

In addition, two Health Visitors were away taking their Health Visitors Course under our assisted training scheme.

Teaching of Parentcraft in Schools. This has been continued throughout the year and the programme has been reviewed and altered according to the particular requirements of each individual school. Fuller reference will be made in the report of the School Health Service.

Mothercraft Classes. These have continued throughout the year at the central clinic in the town. In August a further class was commenced in the Southcote Clinic in conjunction with Dellwood Maternity Hospital ante-natal clinic. No set syllabus is given, the talks and demonstrations given have been whatever is asked for by the mothers attending the clinic at that time. 78 classes have been given during the year. 150 primigravidae have attended; that is, 68% of domiciliary bookings have attended for mothercraft classes during their ante-natal period.

Geriatric Care and After-care. The increasing requests for visits by the hospitals and General Practitioners has made heavy demands on the Health Visitors' limited time, and it is quite evident that her type of work is altering to a very great extent.

The help given to the Health Visitors by the Home Help Service, the District Nursing Service and all the voluntary services in the town has helped her in this type of work.

Discussions on Families with Problems. These have been carried out on similar lines to the previous year. Many new cases have been brought forward and it is felt that in discussing these cases useful information is passed from one department to the other, that is, from the Health Department to the Education Department and vice versa.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out by Health Visitors during the year:—

Primary visits to children under 1 year of age	...	1,861
Total visits to children under 1 year of age	...	8,060
Total visits to children aged 1-2 years	...	4,645

Total visits to children aged 2-5 years	...	...	10,467
Total number of children visited (first visit only)			8,243
Total number of families visited (during year)	...		6,293
Total first visits to expectant mothers	...	...	421
Total return visits to expectant mothers	...	...	222
Total number of visits to old people for hospital assessment	...	...	68
Total number of visits for care and after-care	...		499
Total number of visits to T.B. households	...		14
Total number of Infant death investigations	...		27
Total number of ineffectual visits	...	...	4,139
Total number of attendances at clinics	...	...	1,362

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

The Queen Victoria Institute continued to act as the agent of the Council in respect of home nursing as well as part of the domiciliary midwifery service. The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent	...	...	...	...	...	1
Assistant Superintendents	...	...	...	...	...	3
Q.V.I. district nurses who have completed their period of contract	...	...	...	...	...	13
Q.V.I. nurses completing their contract of service	...					—
Student nurses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Male nurses completing their contract of service	...					1
Non Q.V.I. nurses:—						
Full-time	...	...	...	...	...	3
Part-time	...	...	...	...	...	—

The following table gives the statistical summary of the visits paid by nurses to various types of cases during the year:—

					<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Medical	...	...	...	...	1,703	64,580
Surgical	...	...	...	...	242	8,437
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	10	157
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	29	1,804
Maternal complications	...	...	...	...	87	781
Others	...	...	...	...	369	2,077
					<hr/> 2,440 <hr/>	<hr/> 77,836 <hr/>

The following information is also of interest:—1,281 of the 2,440 patients were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit and altogether they received 54,603 visits. Of this number 154 had more than 24 visits during the year and, in fact, received a total of 31,262 visits between them. 137 of 2,440 cases were under the age of five years and received 881 visits.

The decline in the work required for tuberculous patients continues.

The arrangements for the issue of nursing requisites continued satisfactorily throughout the year. The Queen Victoria Institute holds only a small supply for emergency use at their Homes and issues are made mainly from the Central Depot at Star Lane on the production of a note of authorisation signed by a district nurse. It is also the responsibility of the Central Depot staff to make sure that equipment is returned when it is no longer required.

The following table gives a comparison of the home nursing work carried out since 1949:—

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1949	2,741	92,000
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089
1955	3,443	79,088
1956	2,380	79,738
1957	2,712	79,465
1958	2,440	77,836

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (excluding B.C.G.)

Last year I had to report that a serious outbreak of poliomyelitis had lead to a suspension of our vaccination and immunisation programme. Fortunately we were able to resume immunisation in 1958 and there was a considerable accumulation of work to be dealt with. When we resumed work we also included immunisation against Tetanus as part of our programme. Immunisation with triple antigen is now becoming almost a standard method of immunisation. There is very little demand for immunisation against diphtheria alone.

Diphtheria

Number of children who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1944 and 31st December, 1958.

Age at 31/12/58 i.e. born in the year ...	Under 1 1958	1-4 1954-1957	5-9 1949-1953	10-14 1944-1948	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether prim- ary or booster)					
A 1954-1958 ...	423	4,884	2,854	71	8,232
B 1953 or earlier ...	—	—	3,592	7,565	11,157
C Estimated mid-year child population ...	1,850	6,350	18,400		26,600
Immunity Index	22.86	76.91	76.53		73.78

The number of children who completed the course of inoculation with Pertussis Vaccines (including combined diphtheria/pertussis vaccines) during 1958 was as follows:—

Age at Date of Final Injection		
0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
1,719	59	1,778

Booster Doses for Diphtheria alone	...	...	...	...	...	125
Booster Doses—Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1,413
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2

Vaccinations performed during 1958

Age at 31/12/58 i.e., born in year	Under 1	1 year	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	1,181	69	44	36	63	1,393
Number Re-vaccinated	39	5	3	9	68	124

IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1958

Clinic	Sessions	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Diphtheria	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Whooping Cough	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Tetanus	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Diphtheria	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Tetanus	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Whooping Cough	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Diphtheria and Tetanus	Total
Grovelands	11	1	48	—	53	3	186	—	—	—	291
Whitley	23	11	92	3	148	24	230	—	—	—	508
Tilehurst	12	6	80	2	84	7	150	—	—	—	330
Caversham	12	4	73	4	60	26	185	—	—	—	352
School, Queen's Road	23	8	124	1	115	13	292	—	—	—	553
Southcote	21	6	37	2	54	12	198	—	—	—	312
Emmer Green	11	—	5	—	7	6	45	—	—	—	63
St. Michael's School	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	8
Carried out by Private Practitioners	—	4	255	2	529	34	119	1	2	—	961
Totals	...	40	714	14	1,050	125	1,413	1	2	—	3,378

Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1958

Vaccination against Smallpox

Clinic	Sessions	0-6 months	7-12 months	over 12 months	Totals
Grovelands ...	11	64	25	10	99 (3)
Whitley ...	23	111	15	21	147 (4)
Tilehurst	12	63	44	7	114 (5)
Caversham ...	12	61	45	12	118 (13)
Queen's Road School ...	23	113	38	27	178 (22)
Southcote ...	21	42	16	4	62 (2)
Emmer Green	11	16	5	1	22 (2)
Carried out by Private Practitioners ...	—	427	135	215	777 (73)
Totals		897	323	297	1,517 (124)

Poliomyelitis Vaccination. Early in 1958 the Government made an important decision when it decided to import Salk vaccine from America and Canada. The supply position, which had been difficult beforehand, thus improved considerably and we were able to deal with applicants at a much greater rate. Although each applicant for vaccination against poliomyelitis was given the choice of having the British vaccine, only about 7% expressed a desire to wait until supplies became available. In doing this I am sure that they showed good judgment, for their children were able to be vaccinated long before those who had elected to wait for British vaccine. Furthermore, I am pleased to report that no untoward effects were observed as results of use of non-British vaccine. It may or may not be coincidental that the only cases of poliomyelitis which we had in the town during the year were a carry-over from the epidemic at the end of 1957.

Although it is always difficult to obtain exact figures of the population involved we estimate that by the end of 1958, 66% of children under the age of 15 years had registered for vaccination against poliomyelitis.

The following table gives particulars of the persons who *completed* a course of immunisation during the year.

Children born in the years 1943 to 1958	...	...	...	...	16,216
Young Persons born in the years 1933 to 1942	...	...	...	...	516
Expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	742
General practitioners and their families	...	...	...	...	115
Ambulance staff and their families	...	...	...	...	28
Hospital staff, medical students and their families	...	...	...	...	170
					<hr/> 17,787 <hr/>
Total number of persons who have received three injections	...	...	...	...	3,191
Of the above 6,055 were done by G.P's.					

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The day-to-day supervision of this service continued under the aegis of the Transport Manager and Engineer, to whom I am indebted for the following information and to whom I would like to express my appreciation of the efficient manner in which the service operates.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough cases:—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949	...	8,797	10,098	88,884
1950	...	10,702	12,165	106,256
1951	...	12,176	14,097	119,839
1952	...	15,649	18,096	139,596
1953	...	19,357	23,482	155,528
1954	...	21,361	24,453	159,361
1955	...	22,224	26,207	162,369
1956	...	23,681	27,296	152,241
1957	...	24,141	27,758	155,283
1958	...	25,526	31,883	164,949

Summary of work carried out during 1958 is tabulated below:—

		CALLS		PATIENTS		MILES	
		Total All Areas	Borough Cases only	Total All Areas	Borough Cases only	Total All Areas	Borough Cases Only
Emergency (i.e., 999 Calls) ...		1, 597	1,296	1,548	1,225	8,745	5,374
Urgent and Non-urgent Cases ...		23,805	18,706	30,290	25,107	154,218	89,527
Flying Squad Duties ...		124	—	45	—	1,986	—
Departmental	Stretcher Cases	11,558	8,536	12,147	9,108	90,593	50,865
Ambulances	Sitting/Walking Cases	13,968	11,466	19,736	17,224	74,356	44,036

Ambulance Fleet. The fleet at the end of the year consisted of 2 sitting/walking ase ambulances and 8 large dual-purpose ambulances, 5 of the latter being powered y diesel engines which have consistently maintained a satisfactory record of miles er gallon.

Battle Hospital Patients. Since April 1st, 1956, all calls for the transport of atients (residing in or near the Borough of Reading) and attending Battle Hospital ave been channelled through the Ambulance Depot, the results over the past four ears are as follows:—

		<i>Patients</i>				<i>Mileage</i>				<i>Miles per Patient</i>			
		1955	1956	1957	1958	1955	1956	1957	1958	1955	1956	1957	1958
Ambulance	Service ..	26,207	27,296	27,758	31,883	162,369	152,241	155,283	164,949	6.19	5.57	5.59	5.17
Hospital Car	Service ..	7,304	6,943	5,686	5,197	75,282	70,112	69,812	67,842	10.30	10.09	12.28	13.05
		33,511	34,239	33,444	37,080	237,651	222,353	225,095	232,891	7.09	6.49	6.73	6.28

Radio Control. Radio control has been introduced into the Ambulance Service and became fully operational on October 6th, 1958. This method of communication has provided greater control and efficiency within the service.

General. The co-operation between the Borough and County Police Forces, the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade and the Ambulance Service is excellent and the mutual assistance rendered by these three services is of a very high standard and is very much appreciated.

The system of conveying both Stretcher and Sitting/Walking patients by train over long journeys is used whenever possible, in this connection 159 journeys were arranged during the past year. The assistance of the British Railways staff in reserving compartments, etc., has enabled these duties to be carried out with the least possible inconvenience to the patients.

Valuable assistance has been received from both the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade in providing escorts for patients from time to time.

The general trend is showing an increase in the number of patients requiring transport. The Ambulance service is working to its maximum capacity in manpower and vehicles available and if this trend continues, the strength of the Section will have to be increased.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

A. Tuberculosis. (see also Section *re* Infectious Disease). Arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients continued on lines similar to previous years, viz., a great deal is done directly by the Council in providing extra milk, nursing apparatus, convalescent holidays, etc. This is supplemented by the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association and the Council's Tuberculosis Welfare Officer acts as Hon. Secretary for the Association. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members of the R.T.C.A. for the time and thought they have given to this work. Also a very special word of thanks to the Seal Sale Committee which, once again, organised a highly successful sale to provide the bulk of the money from which the Care Association meets its expenses.

During the year discussions took place as to whether or not the Association should extend the scope of its activities. It is well known that the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has done so and has also changed its title to the Heart and Chest Association.

The character of tuberculosis has changed very considerably over the last ten years or so. From being a disease which produces a high proportion of chronic invalidism with its attendant problems it can, under good modern facilities, be detected in a much earlier stage and treated much more successfully. For this reason the old problems of care and after-care which confronted us a few years ago have considerably diminished. There is a natural and praiseworthy desire that the interest, goodwill, and funds of people who have worked so devotedly for the care of tuberculous patients should not be dissipated but that they should be diverted, in part at any rate, to the care of patients who are suffering from such diseases as bronchitis and cancer of the lung. Members will be well aware of the good interest which is being shown in bronchitis at the present time—it has been called the "English Disease"—in view of the large amount of absenteeism and chronic ill-health which results from it. In addition, there is the ever growing problem of cancer of the lung. It may even be that there is some relation between these two subjects but, even so, they do present quite considerable problems of care and after-care. At the time of writing this Report the R.T.C.A. has not yet made up its mind whether or not to enlarge the scope of its activities.

(a) *Report of the Tuberculosis Welfare Officer*.—The year 1958 showed a slight decrease in the work of the department due in part to a small drop in the number of notifications and also to the fact that more cases are being discovered having only minimal disease. The length of time however before being fit for full-time duties is still about 12 months. Two factors are important in the patient's successful adjustment to changed circumstances; his own ability to adapt himself, and the resources of the community which make the situation more tolerable. It is up to the Welfare Officer to see that he makes the best possible use of his abilities and of the facilities available to him.

The facilities provided by the Public Health Department during the year are as follows:—

Recuperative Holidays	...	7
Free Milk	... ..	87
Meals on Wheels	... ..	1
Boarding-out of contacts	...	0

Under the Christmas Parcel Scheme organised by the Care Association, 85 parcels were distributed. Two-thirds of the cost was paid for by the Public Health Department, the remainder being met by the Care Association.

(b) *Reading Tuberculosis Care Association*. The Secretary reports as follows:—
The Reading Tuberculosis Care Association continues to meet the needs not covered by statutory allowances, of tuberculous patients and their families. This is done by means of individual grants or through one of the Association's schemes.

Individual grants for the year were as follows:—

Provision of clothing	...	14
Radios (repairs, batteries and licences)	... ..	4
Relatives' holiday	... ..	3
Bedding	... ..	2
Fuel	... ..	9
Groceries	... ..	5
Occupational therapy material		3
Other	... ..	6

Under the Garden Scheme, Messrs. Sutton & Sons very kindly gave seeds again for the patients. Sixteen gardens were dug and planted by a retired gardener.

The Fuel Scheme provided 72 patients with 4 cwt. of coal at the beginning of the cold weather and a further 25 patients received 4 cwt. of coal in March.

At Christmas a small gift was made to each of the 25 patients in Park Hospital, and toys were given to children of patients in hospital and on home treatment.

The St. John Ambulance and British Red Cross Library continue to provide a very welcome service in issuing books to patients in hospital and to those on home treatment. 1,203 books were issued during 1958.

The Association were very grateful for the generous gift of £100 received for the second year in succession from the Rag Committee of the University.

(c) *Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale*. The sale of Christmas Seals in Reading produced the third highest receipts since it was started nine years ago, and amounted to £711 2s. 0½d. The pattern of the campaign was similar to that of previous years although there was no public advertising through the press. It was felt that the seals have now established a sufficient grip on the public as to advertise themselves.

The Committee of twenty-four volunteers, with Mr. A. W. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. T. Dowdall (Honorary Treasurer) and Mr. C. E. House (Organiser) are grateful for the facilities put at their disposal for selling seals at Messrs. Heelas Limited, Messrs. Wellsteeds Limited, Messrs. Tutty Limited, the Reading Co-operative Society

(Cheapside, London Road and Prospect Street, Caversham Branches), Messrs. Littlewoods Limited, the Reading Cattle Market, the Chest Clinic and Health Office. They are also grateful to the private residents and to the places of employment and their employees whose contributions showed a substantial increase over the previous year.

Mrs. M. Aubrey again arranged a concert and a "bring and buy" sale which yielded over £40. Great credit is due to her and the many helpers for the considerable amount of work they put into this venture.

(d) *Occupational Therapy.* Miss L. D. Saunders continued her good work as Occupational Therapist for tuberculous patients and has submitted the following report:—

The keen and happy interest which occupational therapy offers has, once again, been most gratefully appreciated by all those patients who have undertaken the various crafts, who gained much benefit during their long period of enforced inactivity.

Eighty-four patients have been visited during the year, and apart from regular visits to those in hospital, more than 500 visits were also made to patients taking treatment in their own homes.

The enthusiastic response has resulted in the successful completion of many hundreds of most attractive, as well as useful, articles, such as all kinds of cane work goods, which have been particularly popular this year, knitting and embroidery, marquetry and "ball point" painting, decorative table lamps, leather goods, etc.

Mainly, these have been disposed of by the patients to their friends and relatives whose kindness during illness is so much appreciated.

A comparatively small number, about 70, were returned for sale at the Reading "Helping Hand" Shop, 53 of which were sold.

A grant from the R.T.C.A. towards the cost of materials, where necessary, enabled a few patients to gain a little profit from these sales. Over £650 worth of materials were used by patients this year, most of which has been remitted.

(e) *B.C.G. Vaccination.* During the year 369 contacts were vaccinated with B.C.G. and 477 school leavers completed the full course of vaccination including the post-vaccination Mantoux test.

During 1958 freeze-dried B.C.G. vaccination became available. We are now using this and are co-operating with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board in investigation to estimate its effectiveness as judged by the Heaf Test conversion rate. Danish vaccine proved so satisfactory that it has now been found possible to recommend the discontinuance of the post-vaccination tuberculin test with this vaccine.

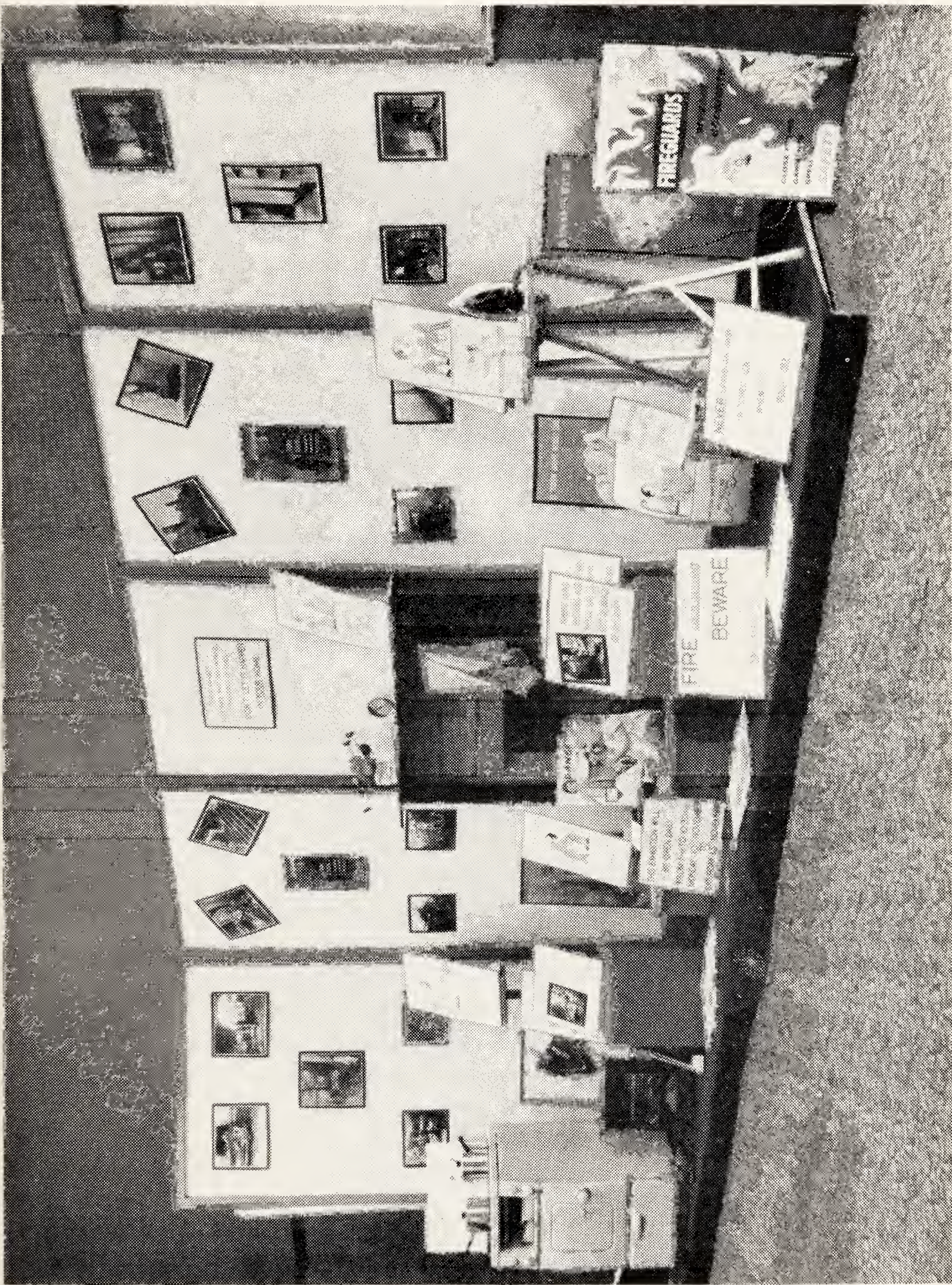
This advice is based to a large extent on work carried out in the Oxford Hospital Region which has such good facilities for statistical analysis and we are hoping that our figures will show a similar satisfactory response for freeze-dried vaccine. There is no doubt that this type of vaccine makes it much easier to plan programmes for B.C.G. vaccination of school leavers.

The figures for school leavers are as follows:—

Number skin tested ...	...	533
Number found negative ...	...	488
Number vaccinated ...	...	477

B. Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus. There were no changes in the arrangements for the issue of nursing equipment and apparatus, although the scope of this work seems to be extending, more especially in respect of patients who are being dealt with under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act. During the year 838 articles were distributed.

C. Provision of Convalescent Holidays. During the year 38 patients, including 31 adults and 7 children, were sent away for periods of convalescence under the Council's scheme. Also 4 adults were assisted with travelling expenses only.



“Guard that Fire Campaign,” November, 1958

D. Health Education. (see also report of Chief Public Health Inspector and report of School Medical Officer). Apart from matters on which health education proceeds continuously, such as immunisation against diphtheria, food hygiene, care of infants and young children, a special item of interest under this heading is the campaign which we carried out in respect of the Government's "Guard That Fire Campaign." The campaign was opened by His Worship the Mayor of Reading (Councillor E. A. Busby, J.P.) and the Chairman of the Health Committee (Councillor W. J. Allum) with an Exhibition at the Odeon Cinema on Monday, November 10th. We were very much obliged to Mr. Wyeth, Manager of the Odeon cinema, for his very considerable help on this as on other occasions. The campaign included:

- (a) Exhibitions and shop window displays of fire-guards and non-inflammable materials in suitable shops and showrooms, in which we were very considerably helped by the willing manner in which the firms concerned have co-operated with us.
- (b) The showing of appropriate films in local cinemas.
- (c) Demonstrations and displays at all our Infant Welfare Clinics and the Central School Clinic.
- (d) The exhibition of suitable notices in the local press, on hoardings and in some of the local shops.
- (e) Distribution of leaflets and book-marks at the Public Library.

Reproductions of photographs of some of the Exhibition at the Odeon cinema will be found in the body of the Report.

WORK OF THE FAMILY CASEWORKERS—PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES (Circular 27/54)

In addition to the work done in connection with the Reading Family Aid Group, the two Family Caseworkers also visited 23 other families with variable frequency according to need. Experience has shown that families tend to be overwhelmed at times by difficulties, get into a variety of muddles from which they cannot extricate themselves without help and advice.

These families need a great deal of time spent on them in the early stages, but later can pursue a suggested course of action and keep their heads above water with less supervision. There are probably more of these families than have yet come to light.

These 23 families have 99 children of school age and under, so the potential danger of such families becoming submerged is self evident.

General enquiries for advice in the office are also on the increase, 232 people were interviewed and of these, 50 had called on previous occasions. In 1957 there were 206 such enquiries, in 1956, 138.

Reading Family Aid Group. The two Family Caseworkers visit twelve families for this voluntary group which continues its work with 19 families. Although the number is the same as last year, two original families are no longer supervised by the Group but two new families have been taken over. The present families have between them 106 children of school age or under. Eight of these children are "In Care" or spend term time in special residential institutions. The remainder are kept at home with their own parents under constant supervision.

The Group administers the Voluntary Funds donated to them by charitable organisations and individuals, and indeed could not carry on without this generosity. The Group would, therefore, like to thank all subscribers for their continued interest, financial help and material gifts. Reading University Students have also given

practical help by decorating two rooms in the house of a widowed mother of six children who was ill in hospital. In other cases the Family Aid Group has provided decorating materials to foster a father's interest in his home.

The Group repeated the successful experiment of sending children to country foster homes during the school holidays, and linking them up with other recreational and educational organisations—as well as arranging day treats. The Reading Guild of Scouts introduced some of the boys to camp life.

Homeless Families (to be read in conjunction with the section on Temporary Accommodation under the National Assistance Act).

During the year 11 adults and 19 children were admitted to Woodlands through the Family Caseworkers when all other prospects of accommodation had failed. Ten of these moved out into rooms, etc., one family was rehoused by the Corporation.

As enquiries were received from 18 apparently homeless families, and 56 threatened with eviction, the actual number of admissions is relatively small but a great deal of the Family Caseworkers' time is taken in suggesting or arranging alternatives, or smoothing out domestic difficulties.

In January, 1958, the unusual step of evicting a family from Woodlands was taken after five months' residence. After several more months in unsatisfactory rooms they were rehoused by the Corporation and have proved very satisfactory tenants.

SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE

Demands on this Service continued to increase. There seems to be no doubt that patients are being discharged from hospital much earlier than they were some time ago and certainly in need of more attention from the domiciliary services. I am extremely grateful to the Council for continuing to vote more money for this very important service. As will be seen from the figures which follow most of these patients are elderly people. I was talking recently to our Geriatrician and he commented on the fact that very few Reading patients seem to relapse once they are discharged from his wards. I think this is a distinct tribute to the care which is provided for old people by the District Nursing and Home Help Services.

One event occurred during the year which saddened us all, viz., the retirement of Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones had been Supervisor of this Service since its inception and she had seen it grow from a comparatively small and limited service into the very large organisation which it is at present. It was her personality which helped to shape this service and I am sure that members will join with me in wishing her improved health and a happy retirement.

The following is a summary of the cases where domestic help was provided during the year:—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	250
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	1,029
Others	306
	—————
	1,589
	—————

The number in which help began prior to 1958:—

Maternity cases (including expectant mothers) ...	11
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	692
Others	90
	<hr/>
	797
	<hr/>

The number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time	1
Part-time	194

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of Householders helped at first day of period:—												
(a) Part-time	792	804	794	791	802	793	812	806	823	818	824	836
(b) Full-time	5	4	8	9	3	6	5	6	5	6	3	4
Number of Householders helped at last day of period:—												
(a) Part-time	803	796	793	800	791	811	805	820	817	821	832	868
(b) Full-time	4	9	10	5	7	5	6	6	5	6	3	7
Source of New Applications:—												
(a) Direct application by Doctor	21	9	13	13	11	13	15	11	13	13	24	24
(b) " " Hospital	2	4	11	6	9	11	12	5	4	9	9	6
(c) " " Midwife	44	20	21	34	38	15	38	32	17	36	38	28
(d) " " Householder	24	14	14	16	18	18	13	8	14	17	14	10
(e) " " Welfare Worker	12	11	5	10	11	5	5	6	7	13	9	17
Classification of reasons of help being sought:—												
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	33	27	27	30	24	20	35	20	35	26	27	29
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	26	10	16	18	20	23	11	10	9	24	25	22
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	43	20	21	32	42	18	37	32	21	38	42	32
(d) Miscellaneous	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary												
.. .. .	12	9	8	6	11	11	7	11	12	5	11	2
Number of Householders receiving help for the first time during period:—												
(a) Part-time	76	39	56	57	64	55	54	38	55	62	66	66
(b) Full-time	12	13	12	9	12	11	14	8	9	9	16	8
Classification of reasons why Householders had received help for over one month at the end of period:—												
(a) Old age and infirmity and chronic sickness	672	668	670	670	668	684	687	702	715	702	709	701
(b) Acute Sickness and convalescence	79	86	85	77	77	92	85	85	80	85	78	86
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	—	2	2	5	4
(d) Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps employed during period												
.. .. .	17473½	14813½	14594	14200½	18374¾	15430½	14514	12547½	17549	15413¾	20131½	14550
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period												
.. .. .	182	186	184	186	188	186	183	185	187	187	194	195
Number of visits paid by Organisers:—												
(a) New cases	111	89	79	72	105	73	78	64	74	76	114	79
(b) Re-visits	488	405	483	371	480	356	459	433	407	332	506	329
Meals by Home Helps (1 week)												
.. .. .	814	768	777	752	767	727	705	790	730	778	783	802

SECTION 51—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. Mental Illness

(a) The arrangement under which Mr. C. E. House, acting as Duly Authorised Officer, and relieved by Miss J. M. Robb, Mental Deficiency Officer and also by a clerical assistant in the Welfare Section, continued. In view of the promised Mental Health Bill it was decided to increase our establishment of Mental Health Workers.

It is almost impossible to obtain trained psychiatric Social Workers and, therefore the Council authorised a Trainee Scheme. Under this scheme a person is appointed as a Trainee Mental Welfare Officer for twelve months, and then, subject to satisfactory reports, he is given a permanent post as an Assistant Mental Welfare Officer. During the training period he receives in-service training from members of the Mental Health Section of my Department and, in addition, he may have to attend lectures at the local hospitals. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of a male general and mental trained nurse. At the moment he is undergoing his training and I am very much looking forward to the outcome of this experiment. This particular appointment is intended to deal mainly with cases of mental illness. A similar appointment has been sanctioned for 1959 and the person then appointed will deal mainly with mental deficiency although, of course, there will be a considerable amount of interchange of duties.

(b) *Report by Duly Authorised Officer.* Mr. House has submitted the following particulars about his work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930.

During the year the following have been ADMITTED into various Mental Hospitals from Reading:—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 6—Order for Reception upon Petition ...	—	1	1
Section 11—Urgency Order	—	1	1
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order	13	35	48
Section 20—Removed under Duly Authorised Officers Order—3 days	10	20	30
Section 21—Removed under Justices' Order—14 days	—	3	3
Section 21a—Persons removed under Section 20, whose Orders were extended for a further period of 14 days by Certificate of Hospital Medical Officer	4	10	14
Section 21a—Persons removed under Section 20, whose Orders were extended in similar manner ...	—	1	1
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order at expiration of Section 20 and Section 21a Orders	1	—	1
Persons Examined by Justice but NO ORDER made	—	4	4

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Section 1—Voluntary Patients	60	146	206
Section 5—Temporary Patients	1	3	4

The following Reading patients have been REGRADED during their in-patient stay at Mental Hospitals:—

From Lunacy Act, 1890

Section 16—to Voluntary Class	10	16	26
Section 20—to Voluntary Class	5	6	11
Section 21a—to Voluntary Class	4	7	11

The following Reading patients have LEFT Mental Hospitals:—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Left hospital on trial period (3 weeks) prior to actual discharge	1	—	1
Discharged recovered at expiration of trial period ...	1	—	1
Discharged recovered without trial period	—	3	3
Discharged recovered at expiration of Section 20 Order	1	1	2
Discharged recovered at expiration of Section 21 Order	—	2	2
Discharged recovered at expiration of Section 21a Order	—	1	1
Discharged relieved	2	10	12
Discharged not improved—Section 16 Order ...	—	2	2
Discharged not improved—Section 11 Order ...	—	1	1

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Voluntary Patients—Left hospital	68	143	211
Temporary patients—Left hospital	—	2	2

The following patients were TRANSFERRED from one Mental Hospital to another:—

Lunacy Act, 1890

Under Section 16 Order	2	1	3
Under Section 20 Order	1	1	2

The following DEATHS have occurred amongst Reading patients in Mental Hospitals:—

Lunacy Act, 1890

Section 16	5	18	23
Section 20	—	1	1
Section 21a	—	1	1

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Section 1	6	9	15
Section 5	1	—	1

Briefly these figures tell us that during the year 1958, 293 persons left the community within the County Borough of Reading to enter a mental hospital. This compares with 265 in the previous year and 141 nine years ago.

(c) *Report by Mental Welfare Officer.* Mrs. A. J. Tregillus reports that the basis on which the Welfare Officer operates continues to afford an opportunity for continuity of contact with the patient through community care, to the out-patient clinic, into hospital and so to after-care.

General follow-up visiting has had to be curtailed owing to other calls upon her time. Statistics show an increased number of visits have been made during the year and also to the worker in the office or hospital. There has been a great deal more office work involved.

There is a small but time-consuming group of young persons in the Borough who, because of their mental condition, cannot get or keep employment. They draw an allowance of one kind or another, are not certifiable and often are not co-operative

with regard to treatment. Most of them live at home—a burden on their families and a source of irritation to their relatives.

Undoubtedly mental illness tends to take its proper place in the minds of the public, and against the complaints of bad behaviour of some of the mentally ill from long suffering neighbours, we can report an increasing number of acts of kindness on the part of neighbours and others whose understanding of mental illness seems to have undergone something of a revolution in the past few years.

During the year 1958, 602 visits were made by the Welfare Officer and the number of office interviews amounted to 351. In addition 139 clinics were attended and 46 case conferences at Fair Mile Hospital.

2. Mental Deficiency

(a) Miss J. Robb reports that the waiting list for cot cases has become particularly difficult this year and through this area there is quite a serious delay in getting hospital accommodation. We have two or three urgent cases which require hospital care and at present there seems little chance of any immediate help.

The short term hospital vacancies are offered from time to time and this year 7 cases have been dealt with in this way. Once again we must offer our thanks to the Physician Superintendents of the Mental Deficiency Hospitals in this area for their kindness.

In the early part of 1958 the Ministry of Health, after considering the recommendations in Chapter 5 and 8 of the Royal Commission on the law relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency, introduced the “informal” admission into Mental Deficiency hospitals, and since that time most of the admissions have been on the “informal” basis. Also as the Orders of many patients in hospitals become due for reconsideration they are allowed to lapse and the patient is kept in hospital on an “informal” basis.

Unemployment amongst the higher-grade male patient has now become quite serious and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find work for them. As many as possible are being encouraged to attend the adult Occupation Centre in the meantime. but the higher-grade man is loathe to do so. The Youth Employment Officers and Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour continue with their sympathetic help.

								Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
								M.	F.	M.	F.
(1) Particulars of cases reported during 1958:—											
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives “subject to be dealt with”											
(1) Local Education Authorities on children—											
(i) While at school or liable to attend				...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools				...	...	...	...	—	—	4	1
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(3) Other sources				...	...	...	...	4	4	6	1
Total of 1 (a)				...	...	...	...	5	4	10	2
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as “subject to be dealt with” on any ground				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at December 31st, 1958, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)				...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Total of 1 (a)–(d) inc.				...	...	...	...	7	4	10	2

Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.

(2) Disposal of cases reported during 1958:—

(The total of 2 (a), (b) and (c) must agree with that of 1 (a) and (b) above)

(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (a)), number:

(i)	Placed under statutory Supervision	...	...	...	4	3	9	1
(ii)	Placed under Guardianship	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	Taken to "Places of Safety"	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv)	Admitted to Hospitals	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
Total of 2 (a)					5	4	10	2

(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (b)), number:

(i)	Placed under Voluntary Supervision	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(ii)	Action unnecessary	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total of 2 (b)					—	—	—	—

(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged

Total of 2 (a)–(c) inc.					5	4	10	2
-------------------------	--	--	--	--	---	---	----	---

(3) Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the Local Health Authority under Circular 5/52 during 1958 and admitted to:—

(a)	National Health Service Hospitals...	...	...	...	...	—	5	—	2
(b)	Elsewhere	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total					...	—	5	—	2

(4) Total cases on Authority's registers at December 31st, 1958:—

(i)	Under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	12	25	89	75
(ii)	Under Guardianship (including patients on licence)	...	...	...	...	—	—	4	—
(iii)	In "Places of Safety"	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv)	In Hospitals (including patients on licence)	...	...	...	...	22	12	81	81
(x)	Total of 4 (i)–(iv) inc.	...	...	...	...	34	37	174	156
Under Voluntary Suspension					...	1	—	9	15
Total of 4 (i)–(v) inc.					...	35	37	183	171

(5) Number of defectives under Guardianship on December 31st, 1958, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (included in 4 (ii)):—

— — — —

Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
M.	G.	M.	F.

(6) Classification of defectives in the Community on December 31st, 1958 (according to need at that date):—

(a) Cases included in 4 (i)–(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority:—

(1) In urgent need of hospital care:—

(i)	“ Cot and Chair ” cases ...	...	...	...	...	—	3	—	—
(ii)	Ambulant low grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
(iii)	Medium grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
(iv)	High grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total urgent cases						—	4	1	—

(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care:—

(i)	“ Cot and Chair ” cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(ii)	Ambulant low grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
(iii)	Medium grade cases	...	...	...	...	1	—	3	4
(iv)	High grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Total non-urgent cases						1	—	6	5
Total of urgent and non-urgent cases						1	4	7	5

(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—

(i)	Occupation centre	...	...	...	...	...	10	22	21	21
(ii)	Industrial centre	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	Home training	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total of 6 (b)						...	10	22	21	21

(c) Of the cases included in 6 (b), number receiving training on December 31st, 1958:—

(i)	In Occupation centre (including voluntary centres)	...	...	...	...	...	10	18	17	17
(ii)	In Industrial centre	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	From a home teacher in groups	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv)	From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total of 6 (c)						...	10	18	17	17

Particulars of Mental Defectives as on December 31st, 1958:—

(1) Cases “ subject to be dealt with ”	M.	F.	Total
(a) Borocourt, 75; Bentry Colony, 5; Wayland House, 27; St. Mary's, Alton, 1; Pewsey Hospital, 38; Winslow Hospital, 2; Botley's Park, 3; Manor House, Aylesbury, 12; St. Agnes, Grove Hill, Reading 1; State Institutions, 6; Normansfield, Teddington 1; Purley Park, Reading 1; Agricultural Hostel, Newent, 1; Wokingham Hospital, 2; Ravenswood, Crowthorne, 1; Smith's Hospital, 2; Hortham Hospital, 1 ...	95	84	179
(b) On Licence from Hospitals Employed away from home, 9; Employed living at home, 2; Living at home and attending Day Hospital at Borocourt Hospital, 4; Not employed, 1; Licensed from State Institution to hospital, 1	8	9	17
(c) Under Guardianship Receiving National Assistance, 3; Not employed, 1 ...	4	—	4
(d) Under Statutory Supervision ...	101	100	201

(2)	Disposal of cases during 1958										M.	F.	Total
(a)	Granted Licence from Hospitals										1	5	6
	Returned from Licence to Hospitals										2	2	4
	Died ...										—	2	2
	Left the district										1	3	4
	Discharged from Order										6	4	10
	Released from Supervision										10	6	16
	Admitted to Hospital										5	5	10
(b)	Awaiting removal to Hospitals												
	Cases of some urgency										2	4	6
	On waiting list for care in the future										6	5	11
(3)	Number of cases ascertained during 1958												
(a)	Cases reported by Local Education Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944												
	(1) Under Section 57 (3)										1	—	1
	(2) Under Section 57 (5) on leaving Special School										4	1	5
	on leaving Ordinary School										—	—	—
(b)	Other ascertained mental defectives reported during 1958 and found "subject to be dealt with"										10	5	15
(4)	Cases not at present "subject to be dealt with"												
	Under Friendly Supervision										10	15	25
(5)	Supervised on behalf of other authorities												
											1	8	9

(b) **Occupation Centres.** Last year I reported that Wakefield Lodge, 40 Christchurch Road, opened as an Occupation Centre for children of school age and The Beeches now accommodates pupils over school age. I am pleased to report that both Centres have functioned through the year and Miss Barkas, Supervisor of both Centres, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

Wakefield Lodge. This Junior Occupation Centre has now become well established. At the end of December we had 29 children on the register, including 5 from Berkshire.

We have grouped the children into three classes according to their mental levels and at the same time having regard to their chronological ages. Quite young children have been accepted for training from the age of three years.

The staff consists of the following: 1 Supervisor (who has supervision of The Beeches and Wakefield Lodge); 3 Female Assistant Supervisors, and appropriate domestic staff.

Transport Arrangements. Those have remained much the same, except for an extension to the Tilehurst route to take in Bath Road.

Medical and Dental Services. We have been indebted to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health for a routine medical inspection, also to the School Dental Officer for dental treatments. Cleanliness inspections have been carried out during the year also other necessary treatments, including Speech Therapy and Sun-ray treatment.

Meals. These have been supplied by the Schools Meals Service, also one-third pint of milk to each child.

The subjects taught have been planned to meet the requirements of the various age groups and their mental ages. 3R work has not been entirely overlooked and an effort has been made to cope with these subjects if the child is likely to benefit at all from them.

Special events and outings have taken place during the year.

(a) In January a visit was made to the local pantomime by kind invitation of the Parents' Association.

(b) On May 2nd, seven children from this Centre joined a party from The Beeches on a visit to the Regents' Park Zoo. The children and the older ones were most interested in watching all the animals—here again we have to thank the Parents' Association for meeting the cost.

(c) Again this year a party of girls and boys from both Centres visited St. Mary's Bay Holiday Camp. They all had a very good time and returned very fit in health.

(d) On June 2nd a Sports Afternoon took place in the grounds of Wakefield Lodge. Both Centres met here on this occasion. Races were arranged for all ages including a race for parents and visitors. Everyone enjoyed the fun and the weather was ideal. Prizes were given by the Parents' Association who also were responsible for organising the refreshments. In the evening two films were shown dealing with Handicapped Children.

(e) On July 16th we held an Open Day at this Centre. A programme of activities was given by the children and the classrooms were open for inspection. Many parents and friends attended.

Students. We have again been pleased to accept students from the N.A.M.H. taking the Course of Training for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped. From December 1st to January 16th we had with us Miss J. Gray, a nursery nurse, and Miss M. Vella-Said from Malta who hopes to return to her country qualified to start pioneer work in training the mentally handicapped.

The Beeches Occupation Centre. This adult Centre caters for pupils of both sexes from the age of 15 years upwards. At December, 1958, 21 males were attending, including two from Berkshire, and 19 females.

The staff consists of:—1 Supervisor (who also has supervision of Wakefield Lodge); 1 Senior Assistant (male) with supervisory duties; 2 Female Assistant Supervisors; 1 Part-time Boot Repairing Instructor, giving two half-day sessions weekly; 1 Caretaker, in addition giving gardening instruction and assisting with games.

Meals. These have been supplied by the School Meals Service.

Medical and Dental Services. This Centre is also indebted to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health for a medical inspection of all pupils attending. Also, to the School Dental Officer—several patients have received dental treatment during the year.

The work carried out in this Centre is of a practical nature. Needlework is taught to most of the girls and two girls are now learning to use the machine with some success. They have produced a variety of articles, many of which were sold at our Sale of Work and at the Helping Hand Shop.

The weekly Cookery class has been both popular and beneficial.

The daily keep-fit classes have been very much enjoyed.

A certain number of boys and girls have gone to the Arthur Hill Baths for swimming instruction.

When possible a weekly football or cricket sessions has been held for the boys, either at Cintra Playing Fields or at Palmer Park.

The special feature for the boys has been the wood chopping and bundling industry and they have been kept busy with orders during the year. Supplies have gone to both the Local Authorities' clinics and the Old People's Homes, and to several private customers.

Some of the special events of the year have been shared with Wakefield Lodge and have been noted in the report for that Centre.

This Centre, however, has been privileged again this year in receiving 30 tickets for the Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia. This was a great occasion and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Parents' Association kindly defrayed the cost of the transport.

The visit to the Zoo and Sports Day, have already been mentioned.

On July 24th an Open Day was held at The Beeches. The weather was ideal and a programme of physical activities was given in the garden. A display of vaulting exercises was performed by the boys and I would like to say how grateful we were to Huntley & Palmers for the loan of the vaulting horse. A keep-fit demonstration, as set out by Eileen Fowler, was given by the girls.

On November 26th the Annual Sale of Work took place at St. John's Hall. His Worship the Mayor kindly consented to open the proceedings—others present included the Mayoress, Councillor Allum (Chairman of the Mental Welfare Sub-Committee), Alderman Miller, Councillor Mrs. Burrows and a large gathering of parents and friends.

The Christmas Party took place at the Town Hall when the Mayor and Mayoress again kindly honoured us with their presence at tea. After tea the Mayor kindly handed the pupils their gifts from the tree. The older children from Wakefield Lodge attended this party.

The Parents' Association have met on several occasions during the year. On March 25th at Wakefield Lodge the film of the Leeds Occupation Centre was shown.

On November 3rd, Mr. Eric Mills kindly entertained the parents at The Beeches.

On December 3rd the Annual Dance was held at the Herman Gollancz Hall.

The Committee of the Parents' Association have again been very active in raising money for us, for outings already mentioned and additional equipment. We are very grateful to them.

Students have also worked at this Centre. Mr. Beecroft, formerly a male nurse, worked under Mr. Allan to gain experience in teaching boys.

Mr. Laison from the Coventry Occupation Centre replaced Mr. Beecroft.

In December, Miss Vella-Said from Malta worked here as well as at Wakefield Lodge.

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The table on page 66 gives particulars of notification of infectious diseases received during the year. These figures include patients who are not normally resident in the borough.

Diphtheria. For the tenth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the borough.

Scarlet Fever. The notifications of scarlet fever show an increase on previous years but once again the disease was of a very mild type. Personally I doubt very much the justification for continuing to regard scarlet fever as a notifiable disease except in so far as it may give us some information about incidence of streptococcal infection.

Whooping Cough. There was a still further decrease in the notifications of whooping cough. Once again it would appear that children who have been immunised may develop the disease, but if they do develop the disease it is extremely mild. In following up the details of such cases we have noticed that none of the immunised children who developed whooping cough seem to have had a booster dose of vaccine. The numbers are too small on which to base any definite conclusions but it is an interesting pointer to the need for at least one booster dose of whooping cough vaccine. The majority of cases notified have not been immunised. My own feeling is that we are now arriving at the stage when we can say that vaccination against whooping cough is having an appreciable effect on the incidence of the disease. When one considers that in the whole country there were only 25 deaths from whooping cough in 1958 one can realise the great changes which have taken place in respect of this particular disease.

Measles. 1958 was not a measles year.

Food Poisoning (see also Report of Chief Public Health Inspector). One small outbreak of food poisoning was reported which was probably caused by insufficient cooling. The Medical Officer who investigated this outbreak reported that cooked fish was moulded to make 450 cakes which were placed in the refrigerator. Enough for a further 160 cakes was left in a mass and moulded next day. All were covered with egg and breadcrumbs and reheated for serving. The refrigerator appeared to be only just large enough to hold the fishcakes, and the mass of fish (for 160 cakes) might well have been insufficiently chilled at the centre. The one person who did not eat the fish escaped.

Poliomyelitis. Members will recall that at the end of 1957 we had quite a severe outbreak of poliomyelitis which involved 49 patients. Altogether there were only five cases reported during 1958 and two of these were really the tail-end of the 1957 epidemic. There were three cases in the remainder of the year. One, a woman of 33, was notified in June; a man of 36 was notified in July; and a boy of 11 was notified in September. All these were non-paralytic cases, and in view of the recent work which suggests that a number of so-called non-paralytic cases of poliomyelitis are in fact due to infection with some other, although allied, forms of virus we can regard the record for 1958 as satisfactory. Vaccinations against poliomyelitis pro-

ceeded with increasing impetus throughout the year but, in my opinion, it is too early to attribute the low incidence of poliomyelitis to our vaccination campaign.

The following tables give particulars of the incidence of poliomyelitis since 1953:—

TABLE 1

1953

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	—	2	—	2
15 years and over	1	2	—	3
Total	1	4	—	5

1954—No cases

TABLE 2

1955

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	—	—	1
15 years and over	3	—	1	4
Total	4	—	1	5

TABLE 3

1956

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	2	—	—	2
15 years and over	—	1	—	1
Total	2	1	—	3

TABLE 4

1957

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	21	20	2	41
15 years and over	2	6	1	8
Total	23	26	3	49

TABLE 5

1958

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	1	—	2
15 years and over	2	1	—	3
Total	3	2	—	5

TABLE 6

Year	1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
Age Group	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5+ months ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	—	—
5-9+ years ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	11*	9*	—	1
10-14+ years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—
15-19+ years ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
20-24+ years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 years and over	—	—	1	1*	—	—	2*	5	1	1
Total males and females in each year ...	—	—	3	2	1	2	29	20	2	3
Grand Total	—		5		3		49		5	

* Includes 1 death

TABLE 7.

1958

Age Group	Males		Females	
	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic
0-5+ months	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months ...	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years ...	—	—	—	—
5-9+ years ...	—	—	—	1
10-14+ years ...	1	—	—	—
15-19+ years ...	—	—	—	1
20-24+ years ...	—	—	—	—
25 years and over ...	1	—	1	—
Total	2	—	1	2

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1958 CLASSIFIED IN ALL AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified									
	At All Ages	Age Groups								Unknown
		Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	264	1	22	68	154	18	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	76	7	16	20	33	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	105	5	32	23	44	1	3	9	17	1
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	60	4	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	25	—	—	—	—	—	12	13	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	11	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	3	1
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	10	1	—	2	—	—	1	3	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	107	—	2	2	8	7	17	39	26	6
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	8	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	3	—
Totals ...	678	20	78	119	242	31	37	70	51	27
										3

TUBERCULOSIS

These remarks should be read in conjunction with those under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act and with any comments made in my report as Principal School Medical Officer. The following table shows the number of primary notifications of cases of tuberculosis and the number of deaths due to the disease since 1938:—

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	136.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,700
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300
1955	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01	118,100
1956	109	11	92.45	9.33	9	1	0.07	0.01	117,900
1957	112	15	94.83	12.70	6	1	0.05	0.01	118,100
1958	107	8	90.75	6.79	8	—	0.07	—	117,900

Once again I wish to thank Dr. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the very great help he has given me in connection with tuberculosis and diseases of the chest. I am indebted to him for most of the information which appears in the following pages of this report.

TABLE II.

Source and Type of new cases of tuberculous infection first seen in 1958.

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odelca Clinic	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals	Transfers from other areas
Respiratory Tuberculosis								
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>								
Positive	—	2	—	2	—	—	4	—
Negative	—	8	—	2	1	—	11	2
Healed	—	6	7	4	—	2	19	—
<i>Tuberculous Pleural Effusion:</i>								
Positive	—	—	1	2	1	—	4	—
Negative	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	2
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>								
Positive	15	9	15	16	11	1	67	27
Negative	6	2	2	5	3	1	19	14
“ Observation ”	16	16	22	21	3	—	78	2
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis	37	44	47	52	20	4	204	47
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	7	—	9	—
Total Tuberculosis Cases ...	37	44	48	53	27	4	213	47

TABLE III.

Summary of Primary Notifications, 1958.

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odelca	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis:							
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>							
Positive	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
Negative	—	8	—	2	1	—	11
<i>Tuberculous Plueral Effusion:</i>							
Positive	—	—	1	2	1	—	4
Negative	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>							
R.B. 1	11	9	7	8	3	1	39
R.B. 2 Positive	4	—	6	4	5	—	19
R.B. 3	—	—	2	4	3	—	9
R.A. 1	6	2	2	4	2	1	17
R.A. 2 Negative	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
R.A. 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis	21	22	18	27	17	2	107*
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	—	—	1	1	6	—	8
Total Tuberculosis Cases	21	22	19	28	23	2	115

* 75 of the 107 newly notified respiratory cases, i.e. 70% were bacteriologically

positive, compared with 70% in 1957, and 67% in 1956, a rate substantially higher than the national average.

Contacts. 755 contacts were examined, a ratio of 7.1 to each notified case and the highest number for any year. An exceptionally high yield was obtained resulting in 22 new notifications, of which 11 were bacteriologically positive.

B.C.G. Vaccinations of Contacts. 367 vaccinations were carried out, a record number compared with the previous peak figure of 309 in 1957. The total number of contacts vaccinated since 1950 is now 2,273.

Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Positive in 1958. There were 78 persons whose bronchopulmonary secretions were positive and who were not at the time in an institution (Ministry of Health definition).

Bacteriological Investigations, 1958

					<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Gastric lavage	...	...	...	...	24	76	100
Laryngeal swab culture	...	...	...	...	7	378	385
Sputum	...	...	...	...	80	909	989
Total					111	1,363	1,474

Most of the sputum examinations included culture for pathogenic organisms, and for malignant cells where indicated.

Number of Deaths due to Tuberculosis. There were 23 deaths from all causes of tuberculous patients: 21 were men and 2 were women. The average age of the men was 55, with a range of 24 to 81. The women were aged 31 and 67.

Domiciliary Chemotherapy. An average of 87 patients per week received chemotherapy at home. This reflects the growing practice of long-term drug treatment of tuberculous patients.

The scheme saves an estimated 20 hospital beds, and is dependent on immediate admission being available in cases of emergency.

235 home visits were made by the medical staff and 2,789 visits by the two health visitors.

Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register.

Notified cases only:—

Recovered	...	...	...	28
Died (all causes)	...	...	...	23*
Transferred	...	...	...	59
Other	...	...	...	29
				—
Total				139
				—

*There was no new post-mortem notification.

Cases Remaining under Clinic Supervision, 31st December, 1958

Notified tuberculous cases	...	...	...	...	1,189
P.T. Observation (not notified) cases	...	...	...	...	302
Non-tuberculous cases	...	...	...	...	582
					—
Total					2,073
					—

Contacts are not included in the above figures

Chronic Bronchitis and other Chest Diseases. The change in the function of the Chest Clinic has continued in 1958 and over 70% of all new diagnosis were those of non-tuberculous disease.

The Chest Clinic is participating in a large scale chemotherapy trial in chronic bronchitis, organised by the British Tuberculosis Association. Preliminary results are expected to be known during the middle of this year (1959). Chronic bronchitis is again forming the largest single group of new non-tuberculous patients, and as general interest in this condition is increasing there is every sign of a growing demand for the investigation and treatment of these cases. Members will recall that at one time rickets used to be called the “English Disease”; rickets has now disappeared and the present English Disease is bronchitis. The incidence of bronchitis seems to be higher in this country than in any other country in the world. This may be in part due to our climate, but there is no doubt that in many cases the disease is worsened by atmospheric pollution. Although there are economic aspects to our Clean Air Campaign I feel that the main justification for this is the medical one.

Care and After-Care. Reference to this important subject will be found in my remarks of our work under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

Venereal Disease. Patients suffering from venereal disease in Reading are treated at the Royal Berkshire Hospital which also serves a large part of the surrounding countryside. The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time in 1958:—

Syphilis...	...	...	...	9
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	71
Other conditions	...	...	...	78

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water. Mr. O. Kean, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

1. During the year ended 31st December, 1958, the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. There were no instances of abnormal contamination of the sources from which water is abstracted and the routine measures of filtration, chlorination, tests for residual chlorine and regular analyses were adequate to maintain a satisfactory standard of purity.

3. The chemical and bacteriological examination of water was continued during the year in the laboratories at the Water Department Depot, Berkeley Avenue. Samples were taken from the raw water sources, from all stages of the treatment processes and from the distribution system. In addition, samples were submitted at regular intervals for independent examination by the Counties Public Health Laboratories. The numbers of samples from each point, together with the type of examination made, are set out below:—

A. By the Counties Public Health Laboratories

Source	Type of Water	Number of Samples	
		Full Bact.	Full Chem.
Fobney Works ...	Final Water, chlorinated ...	5	4
Southcote Works ...	Final Water, chlorinated ...	5	4
Pangbourne Works	Raw Water ...	4	4
Pangbourne Works	Final Water, chlorinated ...	5	—
	Totals ...	19	12

B. By the Water Department Laboratory

Source	Type of Water	Number of Samples		
		Full Bact.	Full Chem.	Partial Chem.
Fobney Works ...	Raw river water ...	22	13	9
	Bulked filtrate, unchlorinated ...	50	12	38
	Final water, chlorinated ...	92	13	79
Southcote Works ...	Final water, chlorinated ...	81	12	69
Pangbourne Works	Raw water ...	73	49	24
	Final water, chlorinated ...	97	12	85
Bath Road Reservoir	As distributed ...	69	12	57
Tilehurst Water Tower	As distributed ...	13	—	13
Hill Reservoirs ...	As distributed ...	9	—	9
Parfitt Reservoirs ...	As distributed ...	13	—	13
Emmer Green Reservoir	As distributed ...	6	—	6
Emmer G'n W't'r T'wer	As distributed ...	16	—	16
Tap Samples ...	As distributed ...	25	—	25
	Totals ...	566	123	443

In addition to the 1,163 water examinations shown in the above tables, 184 miscellaneous samples were taken for analysis, including waters for identification and samples from new mains after chlorination, while a series of chemical and bacteriological examinations was carried out for the Medical Officer's Department in the course of an investigation into the quality of water in the Christchurch Meadows Paddling Pool.

The following are submitted as typical of reports made on the raw and final waters from the two sources of supply.

The well supply, clear and bright in appearance, and of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, requires only precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment, while the river source, in contrast, is greatly affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions, and requires at all times carefully controlled treatment by filtration and chlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.

RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Slightly opalescent, but with little colour and a small deposit of mineral and organic debris, with some diatoms and algal threads				Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered : 8				Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	18	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
pH	8.0	...	...	...	7.7
Chlorides	14.5	...	...	...	15.0
Hardness : Total as CaCO ₃	245	...	...	...	240
,, Carbonate (temporary)	210	...	...	...	205
,, Non-Carbonate (permanent)	35	...	...	...	35
Nitrates (N)	2.7	...	...	...	2.7
Nitrites (N)	0.015	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia (N)	0.030	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia (N)	0.190	...	...	...	0.065
Iron	0.16	...	...	...	Less than 0.02
Other metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	1	...	...	...	4
Total Solids, dried at 180° C.	290	...	...	...	280
Alkalinity	210	...	...	...	205
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	1.55	...	...	...	0.070
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.4
Fluoride ... ..	—	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in :—					
1 day at 37° C.	6800	...	...	...	14
2 days at 37° C.	9500	...	...	...	17
3 days at 22° C.	16,500	...	...	...	16
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>					
Present in	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.001 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	12,000	...	...	...	0
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>					
Present in	0.1 mls.	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	700	...	...	...	0

PANGBOURNE WELL SOURCE

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Clear and bright ...				Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil				Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil				Nil
Odour	Nil				faint, chlorinous
pH	7.0				7.0
Chlorides	13.0				13.0
Hardness : Total	290				290
,, Carbonate (temporary) ...	255				255
,, Non-Carbonate (permanent)	35				35
Nitrates (N)	4.9				4.9
Nitrites (N)	Absent				Absent
Free Ammonia (N)	0.000				0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia (N)	0.005				0.000
Iron	less than 0.02				Nil
Other metals	Absent				Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	36				35
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	345				345
Alkalinity	255				255
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. ...	0.05				0.00
Residual Chlorine	—				0.3
Fluorides	—				less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No of colonies developing per ml. on					
Agar in :—					
1 day at 37°C.	1				0
2 days at 37°C.	2				1
3 days at 22°C.	1				1
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i> ...					
Present in	—				—
Absent from	100 mls.				100 mls.
<i>Bact. Coli. (Type I)—</i>					
Present in	—				—
Absent from	100 mls.				100 mls.

4. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no special precautions are required in this respect.

5. The estimated population supplied from the Corporation's mains in the whole area of supply was 129,111 as at 31st December, 1958. During the year the total quantity of water supplied for all purposes amounted to 2,370,735,000 gallons.

The number of dwelling houses, together with other premises having domestic occupation supplied from the Corporation's mains was 37,786 at 31st March, 1958; of this total 37,755 are supplied direct and the remaining 31 by standpipes. My records show that 18 houses within the Borough do not take a supply from the Corporation's mains but are supplied from private wells.

6. *Capital Works.* The new tower at Emmer Green was completed and became operational during the year, thus Stage I of the scheme of improvements to the distribution system—approved by the Council in 1952—was finally completed.

A start was made in September on an item included in a further stage of the scheme—a 24 in. main from Bath Road to Silver Street. The contractor had made some progress by the end of the year and it is anticipated that the work will be completed during July, 1959.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:—

With a certain amount of improvement in the staff position, it was possible to make a little more progress with the work of the section, with particular emphasis on housing, general district work, meat inspection and smoke abatement.

We were able to complete our target for slum clearance and 1958 saw the end of properties in Bryanstone Square, Soho Street, Cambridge Place and Hope Place.

With regard to meat inspection, the improved staff position enabled us to discontinue the arrangements we had with other authorities for assistance although we are most grateful for their willing co-operation.

Work in connection with Certificates of Disrepair was fairly steady during the year, and we were able to investigate a little further the circumstances of basement dwellings and houses let-in-lodgings.

With regard to the Clean Air Act, the Council made its first Smoke Control Area, deciding as a beginning to take part of the Coley Park Estate. Industry is also making its contribution, a number of firms converting their furnaces to more smokeless types of installations during the year.

It is pleasing to report that the Public Health Inspector pupilage system is now beginning to show results, the first two students, one having been with us four years and the other two years, were successful in passing their qualifying examination and were appointed to qualified posts in July. Two others have commenced studies and it is hoped that the scheme will help to meet the needs of the Department.

I would like to pay a tribute once again to the help and support given by all members of the staff who have worked well during the year.

1. HOUSING

Slum Clearance. In accordance with the programme, as re-phased in the early part of the year, 145 houses containing 125 families were dealt with by representations under the Housing Act or by certification of unfitness. As will be seen from the following paragraphs, approximately fifty per cent of this action was in respect of houses in the Hosier Street area and quite a number of houses from this same area, subject to action in previous years, were demolished during 1958.

Clearance Areas. The following clearance areas were represented during the year by the Medical Officer of Health:—

Clearance Area No. 1/58 (Howard Place)—comprising 7 houses.

Clearance Area No. 2/58 (Grape Passage)—comprising 7 houses.

Clearance Area No. 3/58 (York Terrace)—comprising 6 houses.

Clearance Area No. 4/58 (Hope Street North)—comprising 3 houses.

The following areas of houses, previously purchased by the Local Authority, were certified unfit for human habitation:—

Nos. 2/9, Bryanstone Square—8 houses.

Nos. 2/8, Soho Street and No. 2 Hope Street North—5 houses.

Nos. 2/20, Finch Buildings—10 houses.

Nos. 2/16, Finch Court—8 houses.

Nos. 20/24, Finch Court—3 houses.

Nos. 2/8, Boarded Lane—4 houses.

Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in respect of the Howard Place and Grape Passage Areas and, there being no objections, the Orders were subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

A Compulsory Purchase Order was also made in respect of the Hope Street North Area, whilst in the case of the York Terrace Area, a Clearance Order was made. These Orders have not as yet received Ministry confirmation.

A considerable number of families were rehoused during the year from the houses listed above and the houses in Bryanstone Square were subsequently demolished. At the same time, houses subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders made during 1956—Clearance Area No. 4/56 (Hosier Street) and Clearance Area No. 5/56 (Hope Street and Hope Place), together with adjoining Local Authority owned houses in Cambridge Place, Hope Street and Hope Place, which were certified unfit in 1956, were demolished.

Individual Unfit Houses. The undermentioned houses were represented during the year by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense:—

1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 Almshouse Court; 30 and 32 Armour Hill; 14 Castle Street; 15 City Road; 23, 27 and 41 Coley Place; 12 Coley Street; 38 East Street; 39, 41, 43 and 49 Garnet Street; 1 Greenwood Cottages, New Lane Hill; Grovelands Cottage, Dee Road; 3 and 5 Grove Road; 5 and 7 Hope Street; 86 and 88 Hosier Street; 14 Kennet Side; 104 Kennet Side; 6 and 7 Kew Terrace; 17 Merchant's Place; 6 and 8 Mount Pleasant; 2, 4, 6 and 8 New Lane Hill; 5 and 7 Peppard Road; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Poplar Avenue; 7 and 9 School Lane; 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 Seamer Place; 5/5a Silver Street; 23/25 Silver Street; 27 Silver Street; 60, 64 and 68 Soho Street; 6 and 8 South Street; 17 and 19 The Triangle; 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 York Place.

The following houses, owned by the Local Authority, were certified unfit for human habitation:—

1a Bartletts Cottages; 29, 31 and 33 Coley Place; 8 and 10 Coley Street; 16, 18, 20 and 22 Tilehurst Road.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Grovelands Cottage, Dee Road and the houses in New Lane Hill, Peppard Road, Poplar Avenue, Seamer Place and The Triangle. The houses in Poplar Avenue were in fact demolished during the year.

Closing Orders were made in respect of the remainder, with the exception of 88 Hosier Street. In this case, an offer of works was received from the owner but this was refused on the grounds that the works proposed would not render the house fit for human habitation. The owner subsequently offered to sell the house to the Local Authority.

Following rehousing of the tenants and the closure of the houses, 15 City Road and 7 and 9 School Lane, proposals to render the houses fit for human habitation were submitted by the owners. The works proposed were extensive but were considered to be satisfactory and were accepted and by the end of the year, works of restoration had been commenced in the case of 15 City Road.

The following houses, subject to Orders made during previous years, were demolished during 1958:—

1, 3 and 5 Bath Road (Closing Orders 1957); 22, 24 and 26 Church Street (Demolition Orders 1957); 54 Letcombe Street (Closed 1950); 5, 7, 9 and 11 Mill Lane (Demolition Orders 1957); 1 and 2 Potmore Cottages (Closing Orders 1957) and 4 Potmore Cottages (Closed 1951).

and the undermentioned houses, included in the Slum Clearance programme, were



Finch Buildings--Houses Certified Unfit 1958



Finch Court--Houses Certified Unfit 1958



voluntarily demolished by the owners without recourse to formal action:—

73, 75 and 77 Lower Thorn Street; 3 Potmore Cottages; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 St. Giles Buildings; and 2 Victoria Cottages.

Closure of Parts of Buildings. One basement flat, 13c Victoria Square, was found to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense and was represented by the Medical Officer of Health under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957. A Closing Order was made and the occupants were rehoused.

A number of basements were inspected during the year with a view to similar action being taken but this subject is considered in more detail in the following paragraphs.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings. The term “house let-in-lodgings” is used to describe a house where rooms are let off in separate lettings or a house which is occupied by several families. For the most part, sanitary arrangements and facilities are shared by the occupants and in many cases are inadequate or inconveniently situated.

During recent years, records compiled in the course of normal district work have revealed an ever increasing number of such premises in the town, no doubt as a result of the post-war housing shortage.

Many complaints have been investigated and it is evident that unsatisfactory conditions exist to a considerable extent. In some instances, it has been possible to achieve improvements as a result of informal action, but unfortunately the enforcement of improvements involves something more than the service of a statutory notice specifying the works required.

Since 1955, Local Authorities have no longer had the power to make by-laws controlling conditions in houses let-in-lodgings. Instead, Section 36 of the Housing Act, 1957, now provides that where such premises are so far defective in respect of natural lighting, ventilation, water supply, drainage and sanitary conveniences and facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food, and for the disposal of waste water, having regard to the number of individuals or households accommodated for the time being on the premises, as not to be reasonably suitable for occupation by those individuals or households, then the Local Authority may serve a notice on the person having control of the house. The notice shall specify the works required for rendering the premises reasonably suitable for occupation and require the owner, in default of the execution of such works, to take steps for securing that the number of individuals or households accommodated on the premises is limited in any manner so specified.

Enforcement is therefore dependent upon the fixing of standards both for the facilities as listed in the Act and for the limitation of the persons or families accommodated.

Inevitably, such standards must to some extent be governed by the conditions already existing throughout all such premises in the town and, so far as the limitation as to the persons or families occupying the premises is concerned, consideration will have to be given to the possibility of consequent displacements and the subsequent responsibilities of the Local Authority in that connection.

It is therefore apparent that before embarking upon any large scale enforcement of this section of the Housing Act, the overall problem must be fully assessed and that to achieve this, a survey must be made.

For some time such a step has been contemplated but it has hitherto been impossible because of staff shortages. Towards the end of the year under review, a start was made although progress will necessarily be slow owing to other demands on the time of the Inspectors.

It is early yet to comment accurately upon the progress of the survey which is obviously going to take some time to complete. Suffice to say that to date, our findings have amply justified the need for such a survey.

Underground Rooms or Basement Dwellings. Quite a lot of that which has been said on the subject of houses let-in-lodgings applies also to underground rooms or basement dwellings as in many cases such dwellings form part of houses let-in-lodgings.

Many complaints as to the condition of basement dwellings have been investigated during past years. In a lot of these cases, owners have been required to carry out repairs in an attempt to make the dwellings more habitable whilst in a relatively few cases the basements have been closed and the tenants rehoused as part of the general slum clearance programme. It is however apparent that an increasing number of such dwellings are becoming candidates for closure rather than repair, generally on the grounds of dampness and deficiencies in lighting and ventilation which are frequently incurable owing to constructional difficulties.

As with houses let-in-lodgings, the picture is incomplete and in need of more thorough investigation and assessment before a plan of action can properly be undertaken. Hence, the survey now commenced in respect of houses let-in-lodgings is also designed to produce the fullest information as to conditions in basement dwellings.

Certificates of Disrepair. The effects of the Rent Act, 1957, which came into operation on July 6th, 1957, were noticeable throughout 1958. It is evident that the number of cases which come to the notice of the Local Authority is relatively only a percentage of those where agreement has been reached between the Landlords and Tenants, and where repairs have been carried out as a result of such agreements. This is most apparent in the case of houses where external decoration has been completed, thus having the effect of preserving the external woodwork, besides improving the appearance of the houses.

During 1958, 137 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. Of these applications, 5 were subsequently withdrawn by the tenants for various reasons, and 1 was not granted. The remainder were approved for the issue of Certificates, 35 in respect of all the defects specified by the tenants and 96 in respect of some of the defects.

Following the Local Authority's notice of intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair in these cases, undertakings were received from Landlords in 84 instances, and in 23 instances from those houses inspected in 1957. Of these, 106 were found to be acceptable and Certificates were not therefore issued, whilst 1 was unsatisfactory and was not accepted. In addition, 3 landlords carried out all the repairs necessary before the Certificates of Disrepair were due to be issued. Thirteen applications were received for the cancellation of Certificates issued under the Rent Act. In 11 cases all the defects had been satisfactorily remedied, and in 2 instances the work had not been completed satisfactorily.

Three applications were received for Certificates as to the remedying of defects undertaken to be remedied by the landlord, two from tenants and one from the landlord. The two applications from the tenants were refused, and the application from the landlord although not formally refused, has not yet been granted as the work is incomplete.

Repair of Houses. Many of the complaints received by the department were in respect of housing defects although the coming into effect of the Rent Act, 1957, has necessarily affected both complaints and the service of notices regarding housing defects. In connection with complaints, 398 dwelling houses were inspected during the year and 202 preliminary notices served. There were 2,392 inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders and generally securing compliance with the notices served. Property owners responded well to informal notices, although it was necessary to serve statutory notices in 41 cases. Two of the notices were served under the Housing Act and 39 under the

Public Health Act. One hundred and forty-one houses were made fit during the year by owners.

Information *re* Local Land Charges, etc. Information relating to dwelling houses as regards outstanding notices and their position with respect to slum clearance was supplied in many cases; upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register—some 2,275 forms were dealt with during the year. Details of properties were also supplied in connection with mortgages being arranged under the Housing Act, 1949, with respect to the purchase of small dwellings.

Overcrowding. Many complaints were investigated, particularly from people on the housing list, concerning conditions of overcrowding. Cases of statutory overcrowding were comparatively small and the trend of gradual improvement in connection with this particular matter, is continuing. Numerous reports on housing conditions were submitted to the Housing Department.

A Summary of Housing repair work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of inspections for the purpose of the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Number of general inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,141
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Statutory Notices (Housing Act) complied with by:—									
Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by:—									
Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Local Authority in default	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141

2. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Details of the work of the department in respect of food administration have been dealt with under the usual sub-headings, as follows:—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat
- (b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food Handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT

Probably the most important event so far as slaughterhouses are concerned was the introduction of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, which came into force on August 1st. The Act brought in certain modifications to the scheme of licensing of slaughterhouses in order to enable trade interests to submit schemes of their own for consideration—there has been some criticism of the 1954 and 1955 Acts in that they were apt to restrict the building of slaughterhouses by meat traders. The position now is that in those districts where resolutions of redundancy under Section 76 of the 1955 Act have been declared and confirmed by the Minister, no additional slaughterhouses will be permitted without the approval of the Minister. In unrestricted areas the trade has a period in which to consider its slaughterhouse plans and if they intend to establish new slaughtering premises, they have a period of time in which to submit details. After the material date, all districts will become restricted. The Act requires that Local Authorities shall submit a report on the slaughtering facilities available in that area and where premises do not conform to the Slaughterhouses Hygiene Regulations, most of which came into force on January 1st, 1959, the Local Authority must state when it is expected that these premises will be made to conform to these requirements.

The slaughtering establishments in operation during the year under review were the Public Abattoir and three private slaughterhouses, one connected with a bacon factory, one attached to a small pork and bacon establishment and a small slaughterhouse in Tilehurst where a few smalls were killed. There was no killing by the Kosher method during the year. The general standard of slaughterhouses in the town is good and they have been reasonably well maintained throughout the year, although the premises will have to be reviewed in the light of the new hygiene regulations. The water supply to the Abattoirs was improved during the year by the installation of a new water main from Abattoirs Road, and a number of matters were discussed with a view to other improvements being done at an early date.

Meat for Export. The export of meat from the Reading Abattoirs continued during the year although there was a lull in the supplies to the Continental market when import duties were imposed by the French Government. Approximately 70% of the meat produced at the Abattoirs is being exported beyond the Reading area, and this work has become an established part of the slaughtering routine. The important requirement with meat being transported fairly long distances is that it should be reduced to a fairly low temperature before being placed in the transportation vehicles. There is no doubt that artificial cooling arrangements are an asset in this work in conditioning meat for local consumption. All the meat going abroad is transported in vehicles with independent refrigeration units where it is kept at a temperature around 40° F, from which the meat is transferred to the special rail or air transport units. Meat which is to go by sea is conveyed in Continental type insulated containers in which is placed a quantity of solid refrigerant material, usually solid carbon dioxide. The use of air transport is now highly organised and meat can be delivered in Italy within 48 hours of slaughtering.

Two hundred and five certificates in respect of 3,729 carcasses of beef and 5,235 hind-quarters of beef, were issued in respect of export consignments. The certificates were issued to show that the meat had been inspected and passed as fit for human consumption by authorised officers of the Local Authority. In addition to these, a number of certificates were issued in respect of articles of food manufactured from meat inspected in the slaughterhouses, the details of which have been included under another heading.

Casualty Animals. There was the usual proportion of animals sent in for slaughter because of injury or illness during the year. The recommendations laid down in Memo 3 (Meat) issued by the Ministry of Food, were followed in these cases. Veterinary Certificates or written declarations by owners were required according to

the type of animals sent in and the particular circumstances. It is the casualty animal which could be a source of trouble in a slaughterhouse if proper precautions were not taken, but this fact now seems to be much better realised by owners of animals and little difficulty has been experienced in connection with our requirements. It is pleasing to report good co-operation between Veterinarians and owners of animals and how little trouble has been experienced during the year.

I would like to pay tribute to the advice and co-operation of the Veterinary Investigation Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Whenever advice or a second opinion has been asked, Mr. R. M. Loosmore and his staff have been most helpful.

The position with regard to casualty animals inspected during the year, is as follows:—

Cows	Heifers and Steers	Bulls	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
106	1	Nil	63	Nil	221

None of these items merit particular comment except the figure for sheep. Sixty-three is slightly less than the figure for last year but it tends to be high. The number of casualty sheep is usually a reflection of the difficulties experienced in the lambing season.

Inspection of Dressed Carcases. The numbers of dressed carcases received at the Abattoir and slaughterhouses during the year, were as follows:—

24 calves : 3 pigs

These were received from a Veterinary Research Establishment in an adjoining area.

Meat Inspection. Although the number of animals inspected during 1957 was more than the figure for 1958, during 1958 over 35,000 bovine animals were dealt with as compared with approximately 33,000 in the previous year. The bulk of the work of meat inspection is associated with cattle so that, from our point of view, the demand on the department was undiminished in the year under review. The difficulty we have had in recruiting staff for meat inspection eased a little during the year, and we found we were able to terminate our arrangements for assistance in this work from Inspectors employed by a number of adjoining authorities. The scheme had worked quite well and demonstrated the willingness of Inspectors who, though employed by other Authorities, are, after all, part of the one service. It certainly enabled us to continue with 100% meat inspection. We are grateful both to the men themselves and their employing Authorities for the valuable help given.

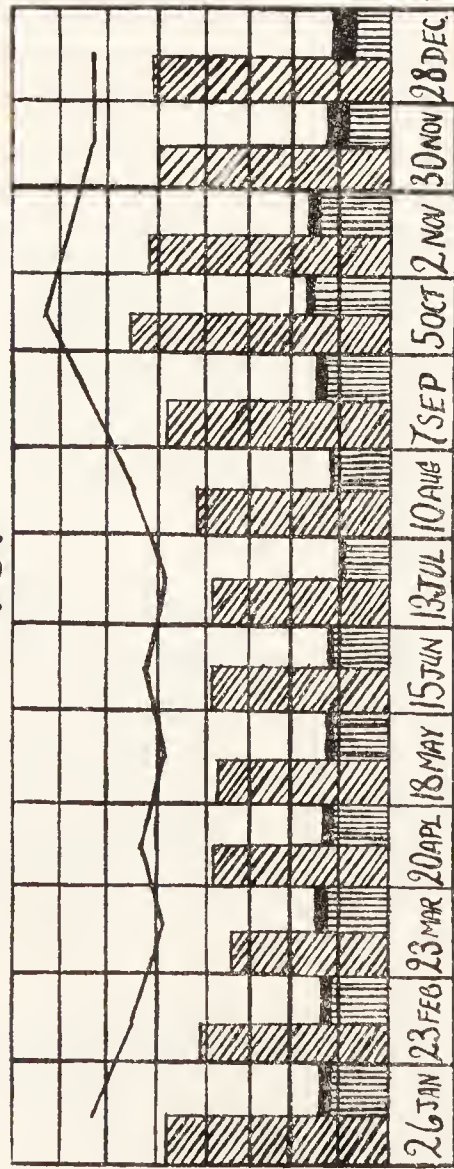
Ministry Grants for Meat Inspection. The fact that Reading is a large slaughtering centre, means that the department has considerably more meat inspection than if we were merely providing for the needs of the County Borough itself. The Government realised this and brought in a scheme of reimbursement for those Authorities who were having to find additional staff for this work. The arrangements are that for the inspection of animals above a certain basic figure assessed on the population of the town, the Ministry make a grant to cover one half of the cost of the additional work involved.

Tuberculosis. February, 1958, saw the end of the first twelve months of the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme in this area. It will be noted that the reduction of incidence of tuberculosis in cows on post-mortem inspection, is quite striking. The percentage this year is 10.92 compared with 18.04 for 1957. The Eradication Scheme

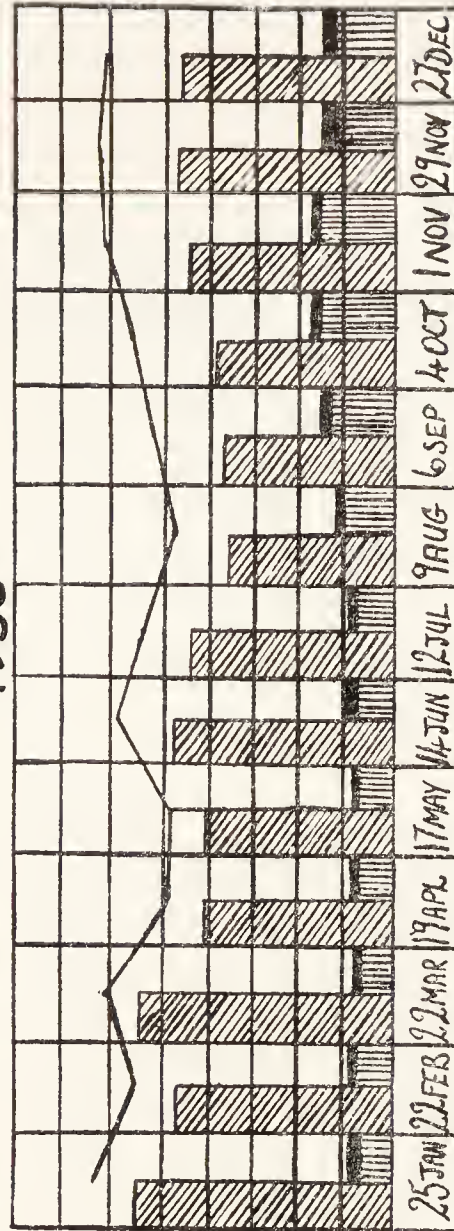
MEAT INSPECTION.

1957

UNITS.



1958



4 WEEK PERIODS.

KEY

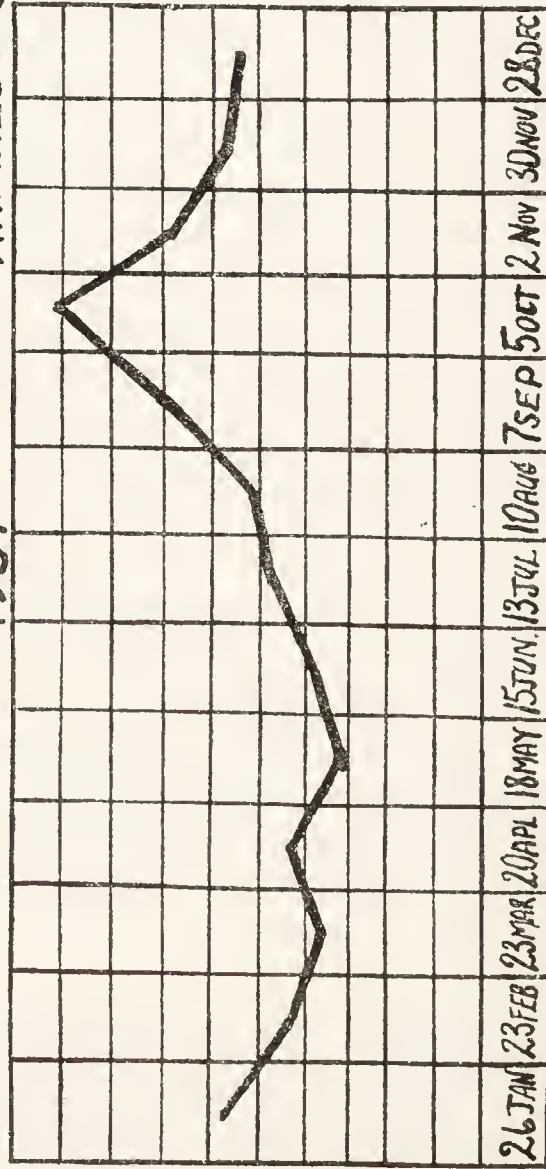
Public Abattoirs.

Bacon Factory.

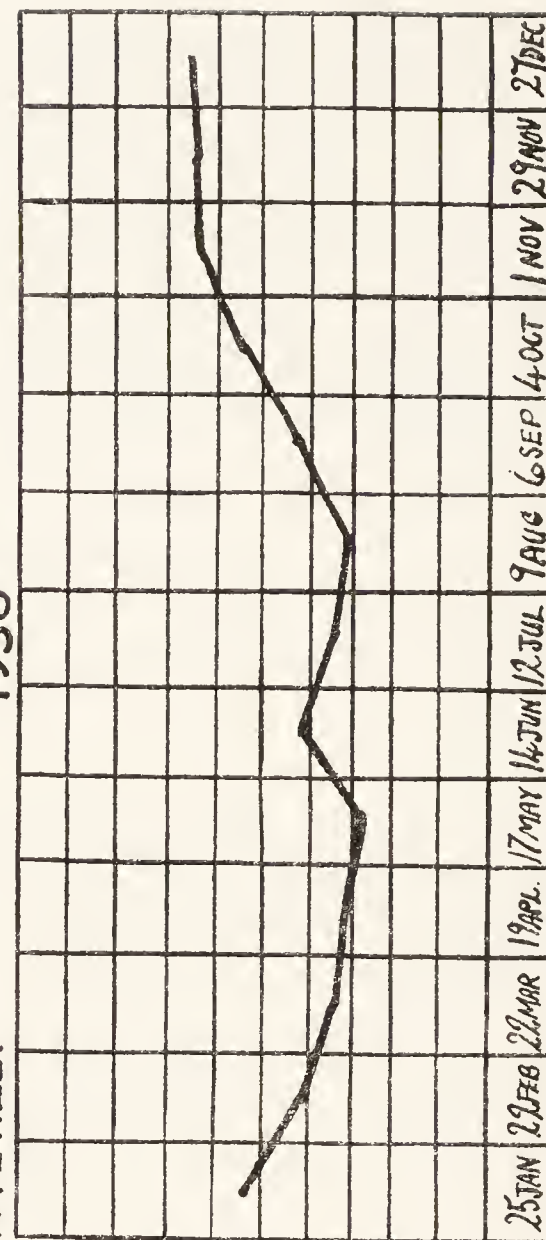
Other Slaughterhouses.

TOTAL

1957



1958



4 WEEK PERIODS.

is the Government's ultimate plan to eliminate tuberculosis in cattle and there is no doubt that, in this area, it is showing material results. It should perhaps be mentioned that the figure of 10.92 has not been obtained from cows originating solely in the Berks area but includes a number which are sent in for slaughter from outside. We have now reached a position with tuberculosis in cattle when we inform the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food of the source of the infected animals, and this is followed up in the field by their Animal Health Division. Another striking feature in the tuberculosis infection incidence has been that infection has not been so widespread as previously and indeed the position today is vastly different from what it was say ten years' ago. The tuberculosis infection of pigs also has declined still further, there having been a reduction of 90% in the last ten years. I would say that the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Orders have done a great deal to bring this position about in respect of pigs.

Year	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3,687	12.04	1,631	49.85	4,297	—	10,235	3.89
1953	23,733	5.52	2,969	23.95	7,586	—	38,949	1.16
1954	22,398	6.47	3,231	18.76	11,185	0.0045	50,180	1.31
1955	9,300	4.45	11,857	15.74	16,396	0.24	69,499	0.72
1956	12,873	3.58	18,350	20.39	23,736	0.06	57,885	0.76
1957	15,936	3.28	17,864	18.04	20,659	0.009	57,316	0.51
1958	11,284	3.34	23,971	10.92	13,253	0.015	57,452	0.33

Cysticercus Bovis. Three cases of cysticercus bovis were found at the Abattoirs during the year. In each case, viable cysts were found in the heads. The three carcasses were refrigerated as recommended for 21 days before being passed as fit for human consumption.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to 1950. The Inspectors who are qualified in meat inspection are authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts and are responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises. Two cases of swine fever were notified during the year, one of which was not confirmed. The confirmed case involved 7 pigs in a piggery on an allotment in the Borough. Disinfection of the premises was carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector and the infected carcasses were disposed of at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food's premises at Coley Park. We appreciate very much the use of the Ministry's incinerator.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954. A total of 46 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Act were issued during the year. Both the captive bolt pistol and the electric lethaler are used at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses and no infringements of the Acts were reported.

Condemned Meat. Condemned meat is disposed of in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health. A proportion is used for pharmaceutical purposes and for mink farm feeding. A quantity of non-infected material was sent to an animal food establishment, whilst the remainder was disposed of to processors for conversion into fertilizer, feeding stuffs and industrial fats, etc.

Some 155½ tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses. The table below sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with details of condemnations, and is in the form required by the Ministry:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	11,284	23,971	13,253	19,504	57,452	Nil
Number inspected	11,284	23,971	13,253	19,504	57,452	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses con- demned	3	63	73	40	54	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2,340	12,809	31	281	8,224	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	20.76	53.70	0.78	1.65	14.41	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	25	2	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	376	2,592	Nil	Nil	191	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.34	10.92	0.015	Nil	0.33	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Diseased Meat and Offals. The following tables give details of the meat and offals found during the year to be diseased, unsound or unfit for human consumption:

Whole Carcasses

Disease	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Tuberculosis	1	25	—	2	1	—
Abscesses	—	—	—	2	—	—
Bruising and Injuries	—	2	—	1	1	3
Dead in Lairage	—	—	—	—	1	—
Emaciation	—	1	—	—	4	8
Erysipelas, Acute Swine	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fevered	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fevered and Moribund condition	—	—	—	1	3	—
Gangrene	—	1	—	—	1	—
Ill-bled	—	—	—	3	—	—
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	2	—
Johnes Disease	—	3	—	—	—	—
Joint-ill	—	—	—	8	—	—
Moribund	—	—	—	9	4	5
Moribund, Johnes Disease and Emaciation	—	3	—	—	—	—
Oedema	—	3	—	12	—	2
Oedema and Emaciation	2	39	—	15	1	21
Polyanthritis	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pyæmia	—	—	—	—	7	—
Pyrexia	—	2	—	13	15	1
Pyrexia and Oedema	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pyrexia and Suffocation	—	—	—	—	2	—
Septicaemia	—	—	—	1	3	—
Septic Mastitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
Septic Mitritis	—	3	—	—	—	—
Septic Pericarditis	—	1	1	1	1	—
Septic Peritonitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
Septic Pleurisy	—	1	—	—	1	—
Septic Pneumonia	—	1	—	7	3	—
Tumours, Multiple	—	—	—	—	1	—
	3	88	1	75	55	40

Part Carcasses

Disease	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Tuberculosis	2	299	—	—	—	—
Abscess	—	2	—	—	9	—
Bruising and Injuries	—	4	—	—	5	—
Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—
Septic Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	2	—
Septic Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—
	2	305	—	—	18	—

Organs, etc.

<i>Heads and Tongues</i>					<i>Hearts</i>				
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	844	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	12
Abscess	...	...	...	74	Pericarditis	...	...	...	1,645
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	83					
Cysticercus Bovis	...	...	...	3					
<i>Lungs</i>					<i>Kidneys</i>				
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2,255	Cysts	...	...	...	603
Abscess	...	...	...	94	Nephritis	...	...	...	686
Congestion	...	...	...	803					
Cysts	...	...	...	286					
Distomatosis	...	...	...	44					
Emphysema	...	...	...	1					
Pleurisy	...	...	...	1,723					
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1,732					
<i>Livers</i>					<i>Skirts</i>				
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	334	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11
Abscess	...	...	...	213					
Angioma	...	...	...	1,170					
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	773					
Cysts	...	...	...	140					
Degenerations	...	...	...	81					
Distomatosis	...	...	...	14,776					
Milkspots	...	...	...	2,117					
Necrosis	...	...	...	2					
Peritonitis	...	...	...	59					
<i>Part Livers</i>					<i>Intestines</i>				
Distomatosis	...	...	...	1,319	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
					Johnes Disease	...	...	...	24
					Peritonitis	...	...	...	66
					Flays—Peritonitis	...	...	...	14
					<i>Stomachs</i>				
					Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
					Inflammation	...	...	...	87
					Abscess	...	...	...	4

Transport of Meat. There was a continued improvement in the standard of meat transport vehicles and in the hygienic handling of meat at slaughterhouses. In the case of transport, there is a tendency on the part of the small butcher to take advantage of the transport organisations available at the Abattoirs, the vehicles of which are quite satisfactory. The transportation of meat to London, to the Channel Ports and the Airport at Lympne, is now highly organised and with the type and standard of vehicle used, meat delivered hundreds of miles away from the place of slaughter is in much the same condition as when delivered locally. The use of stainless steel for lining the interiors of vans and the installation of independent refrigeration units, have been two important factors in the improved standards.

Knacker's Yard. There is one Knacker's Yard in the Borough which is subject to annual licensing by the Council. These premises were reconstructed during 1955 and are of a good standard. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows 146 bovine and 23 equine cases were dealt with on the premises during the year. No complaints were received in respect of this establishment and it was carried on satisfactorily during the year. The Public Health Inspectors made 47 visits to the premises during 1958.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

Some 476 visits were made to food establishments during the year for the purpose of condemning foodstuffs unfit for human consumption. Approximately $12\frac{3}{4}$ tons of food were condemned and 1,756 certificates were issued to the traders concerned. There is no item worthy of special mention except perhaps that of cooked ham, bacon,

and gammon. The main trouble with cooked ham was decomposition which is a condition arising from improper storage. Some traders are still not aware that certain canned hams require to be stored around refrigeration temperatures because the methods of processing and canning do not attain the degree of sterilisation that is invariably achieved with the normal type of canned product. Details of the food condemned are given below:—

UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

Apricot Pulp ...	...	...	...	...	37 lb.
Bacon ...	...	...	...	...	2,962½ lb.
Biscuits ...	...	...	...	...	180 lb.
Brawn ...	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Cheese ...	...	...	...	...	168¾ lb.
Coconuts ...	...	...	...	...	7 sacks
Cooked Ham, Bacon and Gammon ...	...	...	...	...	2,065¾ lb.
Corned Beef ...	...	...	...	...	6 lb.
Currants ...	...	...	...	...	16½ lb.
Dates ..	...	...	...	...	388 lb.
Dried Beans ...	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Fish ...	...	...	...	...	435 lb.
Fishcakes ...	...	...	...	...	81 lb.
Ham and Tongue Roll ...	...	...	...	...	86 lb.
Hamburger Patties ...	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Lard ...	...	...	...	...	148½ lb.
Lentils ...	...	...	...	...	15 lb.
Liver Sausage ...	...	...	...	...	15 lb.
Luncheon Sausage ...	...	...	...	...	37 lb.
Meat ...	...	...	...	...	466 lb.
Meat and Onion Roll ...	...	...	...	...	144 lb.
Offal ...	...	...	...	...	1,482 lb.
Peaches ...	...	...	...	...	70 lb.
Pearl Barley ...	...	...	...	...	23 lb.
Pork Pies ...	...	...	...	...	3 lb.
Potatoes ...	...	...	...	...	2,611 lb.
Poultry ...	...	...	...	...	2,084 lb.
Sago ...	...	...	...	...	33 lb.
Sausages ...	...	...	...	...	1,352 lb.
Split Peas ...	...	...	...	...	22 lb.
Sugar ...	...	...	...	...	14 lb.
Sultanas ...	...	...	...	...	49½ lb.
Tapioca ...	...	...	...	...	36 lb.
Tins, various ...	...	...	...	...	4,387 tins

(c) *MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS*

The routine inspection of dairy establishments in the Borough continued during the year, both for the purpose of ensuring that the establishment conformed to the relevant statutes and the sampling of milk at the time of delivery from the farms to the dairy establishments. The dairies were reasonably well conducted throughout the year although there is one establishment which suffers from a lack of space where the management are seeking fresh accommodation. The number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, are as follows:—

Plant licences for milk pasteurisation	...	4
--	-----	---

Dealers' licences for sale of:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	67
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested Milk	...				18
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...		28
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	82

The number of retailers of bottled milk, as received from the dairies, is very little different from last year and it is interesting to note that the number of people selling Sterilised Milk went down slightly.

From the number of supplementary licences issued to firms distributing milk in the town from districts outside, it would seem that Reading is fairly self-sufficient so far as the milk distributing trade is concerned. Indeed, it is probably the case as with other aspects of food production and distribution, for instance meat, that Reading is the supplier for many districts outside. Details of supplementary licences are as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested Milk	...				2
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...		6
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	3

Of the 4 milk processing plants, 3 are of the H.T.S.T. pattern and one is of the Holder type. In the so-called Holder method, the milk must be retained at a temperature of not less than 145°F. and not more than 150°F. for at least 30 minutes and be immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 50°F. In the so-called "high temperature short time" (H.T.S.T.) method, the milk has to be retained at a temperature of not less than 161°F. for at least 15 seconds and be immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 50°F. It has been pointed out in the Report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health for 1956, that these heat treatment processes are not infallible and constant control ought to be kept over them to ensure that the plant is correctly adjusted and that, judged by a study of the temperature charts made by the recording thermometers, the processes are being correctly carried out.

Reading is contained within a specified area, i.e., an area in which the sale by retail of raw milk other than Tuberculin Tested milk, is prohibited.

Reading was honoured to be chosen by the Dairy Industry as the principal town for the June Dairy Festival. It was an interesting occasion during which all aspects of milk production and utilisation were shown and demonstrated.

Samples: Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) and (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949. The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are shown below:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	329	Phosphatase	323	4	2
		Methylene Blue	322	1	6
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	230	Phosphatase	228	2	Nil
		Methylene Blue	222	Nil	8
Tuberculin Tested	50	Methylene Blue	42	8	Nil
Sterilised	28	Turbidity	28	Nil	Nil

Some 637 samples of various types of designated milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the prescribed tests; 595 samples of milk were examined by the Methylene Blue test which is designed to indicate keeping quality, and to some extent the conditions under which milk is produced, handled and transported—14 of these samples were declared void. The quantity of raw Tuberculin Tested milk sold in the Borough is relatively small, but during the year, 8 samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test. In the case of Pasteurised milk submitted to the Methylene Blue test, one was unsatisfactory. Although the proportion of Tuberculin Tested failures is rather high, it is emphasised by the authorities that with this particular test isolated samples and results are not of very great value and that it is upon the overall results to which one should have regard. The conditions under which raw milk is produced are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food who were informed of these cases. Where successive unsatisfactory samples are obtained from a source of raw milk supply, it is usual for the Ministry to arrange visits to the farm for the purpose of sampling and, if necessary, the giving of advice to the producer. Appropriate action was taken with the samples of milk that failed to satisfy the Heat Treatment Regulations test and in one instance a warning was given to a processor.

It should be emphasised that the work of sampling and inspection can only be a check on the activities of the dairy, for instance, the result of a sample is indicative only of the condition of the milk in a section of the plant over a comparatively short period of time. Whilst the majority of milk coming in to the Reading dairies is from Tuberculin Tested cattle, there is always the possibility that infected milk could be included so that it is essential in the interests of public health that the Heat Treatment Regulations should be rigidly observed. The Public Health Laboratory continued to use during the year the Schaffenburgh-Mullen test in addition to the Kay-Graham statutory test as a check on the Phosphatase results. The former test gives quicker results so that in the few cases where samples failed the test, we were given an early indication of the result which enabled us to investigate the circumstances of processing without undue delay.

It is interesting to note that the number of void samples is 16 compared with 45 last year and 162 in 1956.

Milk Bottles. Few complaints were received concerning the condition of milk bottles. Every opportunity was taken by Inspectors, however, in drawing attention to the need for care both on the part of dairy plant operators and householders. One or two dairies have contemplated the carton pack which, of course, would eliminate

the need for bottle washing and consequently complaints of dirty bottles, but a great deal has still to be done before we can do away with the traditional form of milk packing. Cost is an important factor; with a bottle, some 40 to 50 journeys can be expected on average, but with the carton, although initial cost is small, overall cost is very considerable when one journey only is involved.

School Milk Supply. The milk supplied to all Council schools is pasteurised and samples have been taken regularly for examination. All the results were satisfactory. Visits were paid on occasions to check early morning deliveries, but there was no cause for complaint.

Ice Cream. The number of dealers registered in connection with the storage and sale of ice cream shows an increase on last year, there being 516 on the register on December 31st. There was no change in the number of ice cream manufacturers in the town. Regular and frequent inspections were made throughout the year to all ice cream establishments and conditions were found to be fairly satisfactory. Most of the ice cream in the town is sold pre-wrapped or in containers and the hygiene standards of retailers are generally satisfactory. The indications are that where the provisions of the ice cream regulations are observed there is no reason why ice cream should not meet the standards required. Some 70 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue test. The results are as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1 ...	...	...	...	59
Provisional Grade 2 ...	...	...	...	6
Provisional Grade 3 ...	...	...	...	4
Provisional Grade 4 ...	...	...	...	1

The Methylene Blue test has no legal significance but it forms a useful guide to the conditions under which the ice cream is manufactured. The standard suggested for Manufacturers is that over a period of six months 50% of the samples should fall in Grade 1, 80% in Grade 1 or 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3 and none in Grade 4.

Twenty-five samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis, all of which proved satisfactory.

The Food Standards Committee have been considering the standard for ice cream for some time, also the use of the term "Ice Cream," and a new standard came into effect at the time of the drafting of this Report.

There are now two general descriptions for what was formerly ice cream, and in future the description "Dairy Ice Cream" applies only to a product which contains no fat other than milk fat except such as may be introduced by the use of any egg, any flavouring substance or any emulsifying or stabilising agent.

Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc. Vehicles operating in the town were inspected periodically, there being no reports of unsatisfactory conditions. Almost without exception wrapped ice cream only is served. The vehicles were found to be generally satisfactory from the point of view of cleanliness and were of a good standard. Stalls erected in the parks and playing fields were also regularly inspected during the season of use.

(d) *FOOD HANDLING*

Food Hygiene. Although the spate of publicity given to food hygiene in the past has quietened down somewhat, the routine of inspecting premises, advising traders and giving lectures and film shows to food handlers continued during 1958.

During the year, a revised edition of Memo 188/Med (Food Poisoning) was published, serving as a reminder of the importance of hygienic food handling.

As was pointed out in the Report last year, there is little inherent fault in any food and it is in the handling of the original perfectly sound article that by far the greater trouble arises. What is required for clean safe food production is good premises, sound food and healthy food handlers with a sense of responsibility. The use of refrigeration is becoming more and more appreciated and this factor in itself will undoubtedly reduce the possibility of food-borne infections arising.

An interesting case arose during the year where it was reported from the Midlands that a large consignment of frozen liquid egg was found to be infected with *Salmonella* and that it was proposed to treat it at the Dairy Department of Reading University. Liquid egg has been acknowledged for some time as a potential source of food-borne infection, mainly by virtue of its origin and nature of production and a great deal of consideration has been given as to the means by which it could be rendered safe. The normal procedure with liquid egg was to insist that it be used in a commodity which will be thoroughly cooked, but methods are now being sought to effectively treat it on lines similar to milk pasteurisation. Some 5 tons of liquid egg were put through the pasteurising plant at the University, samples being taken by the staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Collingdale. Whilst a certain amount of experimentation was necessary in order to arrive at the most satisfactory time and temperature range for treatment, fairly satisfactory results were obtained.

Another matter which received the consideration of the Health Committee, was a complaint that sections of the coloured population of the town were purchasing some of the proprietary Cat and Dog Foods for human consumption. Many of these foods are sold in the normal food establishments. On investigation, however, it was found that these foods were usually of such a nature and were subjected to such adequate methods of heat treatment that they were quite safe for human consumption. It was moreover concluded that the foods were adequately labelled and it was unlikely that the public were deceived in any way.

Lectures, Films, etc. Although inspectorial staff was not fully up to strength, we continued as far as possible with our efforts to encourage people to attend instructional meetings, etc. Meetings were held in traders' premises and lectures and film shows given on a number of occasions. Whilst enthusiasm is often shown by the management and some of the staff, the results were by no means as encouraging as one might expect. Last year, in collaboration with the St. John Ambulance Association, we endeavoured to establish a short course on food hygiene instruction but, apart from the one firm who supported the first course, approaches in other directions had negative results.

Talks on food handling were given at various schools in the town and from the interest shown, these efforts seemed certainly worth while especially where the audience is comprised of children, a fair proportion of whom may enter the food trades.

Visits and Inspections. During the year, the Public Health Inspectors paid some 3,334 visits to all types of food premises and gave advice on many matters relating to the premises themselves and the technique of food handling. The routine inspection of food premises is a duty for which there is no substitute. It not only reveals infringements of Acts and Regulations on occasions, but serves as a constant reminder to food traders and handling staff of their responsibilities. The standard of food premises in the town continues to improve due partly to visits by members of the staff and a desire on the part of the traders to improve their premises. The Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of premises are steadily being enforced and where traders were required to carry out improvements, there was generally a good response. There was no occasion to institute proceedings in respect of these matters.

In addition to visits to retail shops and food factories, there were regular visits to school kitchens and visits as a result of complaints. There were one or two occasions

again in 1958 when meat supplies delivered to school kitchens had to be referred to the supplier.

Food Premises. In addition to ice cream premises, there are other establishments registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:—

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	50
Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	105
Pressed Meat Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	61
Jam Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pickle Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Potato Crisp Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine Wholesale Stores	...	...	...	...	...	4
						<hr/>
						227
						<hr/>

In addition to the previous table, there are 911 other food premises recorded to which 2,124 visits were paid. The number of premises arranged in the various classes are as follows:—

Bakers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	93
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	68
Cake Shops	...	...	...	...	...	46
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	43
Greengrocers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	101
Grocers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	361
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	127
Wholesale Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	35
						<hr/>
						911
						<hr/>

School Kitchens. Liaison with the School Meals Service continued throughout the year, both in regard to food hygiene and the quality of food supplies. Numerous visits were paid to these establishments, both on request and as a matter of routine. The standard of premises and of food handling is good.

Extraneous Matter in Food. A number of complaints were received during the year in respect of extraneous matter found in food. Several cases were reported to the Health (General Services) Sub-Committee but warnings were considered sufficient and legal proceedings were not instituted.

(e) *SAMPLING, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955*

A total of 444 samples of food and drugs was submitted for examination during the year, compared with 457 last year. In 1958, ten (2.25%) were reported to be not up to standard compared with thirteen (2.85%) in 1957. Details of the samples procured and those found to be not up to standard are shown in the table on page 94. Of the samples obtained, 151 were of Milk and of these 10 (6.6%) were not up to standard or were classified as genuine milks of poor quality. These figures compare with 10 (7.6%) out of a total of 131 samples of milk obtained last year.

In only one case were legal proceedings instituted against a farmer with regard to alleged added water in samples of milk taken in course of delivery to a dairy. Proceedings were taken under Section 32. The case was dismissed; the Magistrates ruled that the charge of adding water had not been proved against the farmer.

“Appeal-to-cow” samples taken in the case of another farmer, indicated that the milk was naturally deficient in fat and solids-not-fat.

A quantity of skimmed milk powder supplied to School canteens for cooking purposes was found to contain an excess of acidity calculated as lactic acid. Stocks from the factory concerned were withdrawn from use.

Labelling of Food, etc. Labels of samples procured under the Food & Drugs Act were checked for compliance with the appropriate Labelling of Food Order and other legislation.

Infringements were noted in three instances and after representations were made to the manufacturers, the unsatisfactory labels were put right.

Merchandise Marks Act. This Act continued to receive attention and generally speaking, found to be well observed.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almond Paste	1	1	—
Almonds, Ground	3	3	—
Apples	1	1	—
Baby Food	1	1	—
Baked Beans with Hamburgers	1	1	—
Beans, baked in Tomato Sauce	2	2	—
Beans, canned	3	3	—
Biscuits	1	1	—
Boracic Acid, B.P.	1	1	—
Butter	6	6	—
Cabbage, Pickled	1	1	—
Cake and Pudding Mixtures	5	5	—
Cakes	3	2	1
Caraway Seeds	1	1	—
Cereals	2	2	—
Cheese	1	1	—
Cheese, Buttered	1	1	—
Cheese Spread with Ham	1	1	—
Cheese Spread	2	2	—
Chicken Cutlets... ..	1	1	—
Cochineal	1	1	—
Coconut, sweetened	1	1	—
Coffee and Chicory	1	1	—
Coffee, French	1	1	—
Cream	4	4	—
Cream, Double	1	1	—
Curry Powder	1	1	—
Cutlettes, Fish	1	—	1
Cutlettes, Turkey	1	—	1
Dripping	1	1	—
Eels, Jellied	1	1	—
Essence, Lemon	1	1	—
Essence, Vanilla	1	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	1	—
Fish Cakes	1	1	—
Fish, canned	4	3	1
Flavouring Essence	1	1	—
Flavouring, Raspberry	1	1	—
Flavouring, Rum	1	1	—
Flour, S.R.	1	1	—
Flour, Soya	1	1	—
Frizets	1	1	—
Fruit, dried	2	2	—
Fruit Juices and squashes	8	7	1
Fruit, tinned	5	5	—
Gelatine	1	1	—
Glaze Cherries	2	2	—
Glycerine, B.P.	1	1	—
Grape Juice	1	1	—
Gravy Powder	1	1	—
Health Salts	2	2	—
Honey, English	1	1	—
Ice Cream	25	25	—
Ice Cream Powder	1	1	—
Iced Lollies	11	11	—
Icing Mixture	1	1	—
Jams and Sweet Spreads	6	6	—
Jellies, Table	3	3	—
Jelly, Aspic	1	1	—
Lard	3	3	—
Lemonade Powder	2	2	—
Lemon Curd	1	1	—

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Lollies, Creamy	1	1	—
Luncheon Meats	4	4	—
Margarine	1	1	—
Marmalade	2	2	—
Meat and Fish Pastes	11	9	2
Meat Puddings	2	2	—
Meringue Powder	1	1	—
Milk	151	141	10
Milk, Condensed	1	1	—
Milk, Evaporated Full Cream	1	1	—
Milk, National Dried	1	1	—
Milk, Sterilised	1	1	—
Minced Beef Loaf	2	1	1
Mincemeat	3	3	—
Mint Sauce	1	1	—
Mushrooms, canned	1	1	—
Mustard	1	1	—
Nut Oil	1	1	—
Olive Oil	1	1	—
Onions, Pickled... ..	3	3	—
Pastry	1	1	—
Pease Pudding	1	1	—
Peas, canned	2	2	—
Peas, Processed... ..	2	2	—
Peel, Mixed (cut)	3	3	—
Pepper, White	5	5	—
Pickles, various... ..	3	3	—
Potato Salad	1	1	—
Puddings	3	3	—
Rennet, Essence of	1	1	—
Rice, Ground	1	1	—
Salt, Celery	1	1	—
Salt, Garlic	1	1	—
Sauces, Ketchups and Chutneys	15	15	—
Sausages, Beef	1	1	—
Sausages, Pork	1	1	—
Savouries	1	1	—
Scampi, tinned	1	1	—
Seasoning, Liquid	2	2	—
Skimmed Milk Powder	1	—	1
Soups, tinned	5	5	—
Soup Powder	2	2	—
Spices	2	2	—
Spirits	1	1	—
Steak, Stewed	6	5	1
Suet	2	2	—
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	26	26	—
Tapioca	1	1	—
Tea	1	1	—
Vegetables, tinned	5	5	—
Vinegar, Malt	7	7	—
Wafers, Giant	1	1	—
Wines	4	4	—
	444	424	20

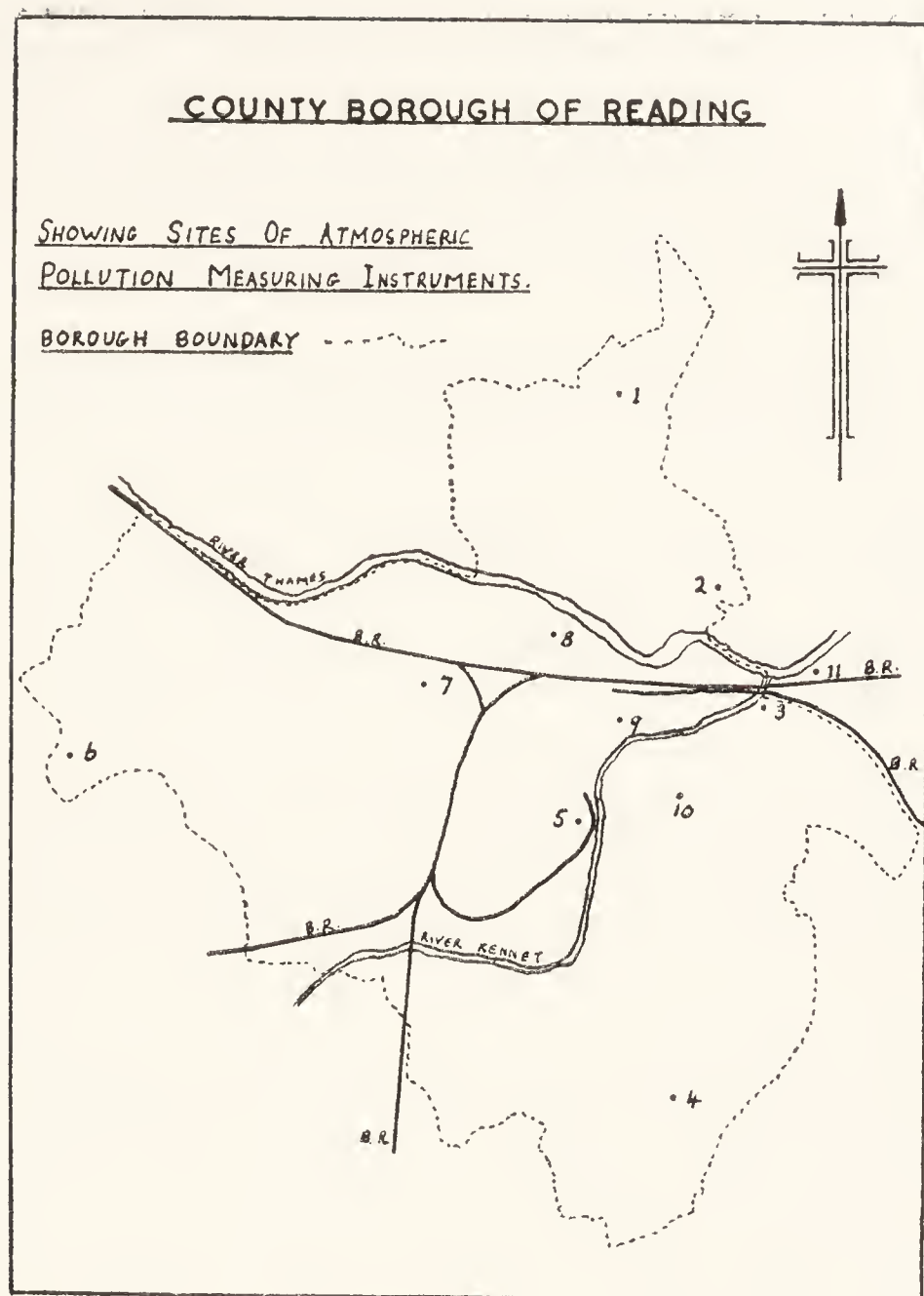
FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

ACTION TAKEN ON SAMPLES BELOW STANDARD

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
30	Skimmed Milk Powder	Informal	Excess acidity	Stocks from factory concerned withdrawn from use
53	Soft Herring Roe (canned)	Informal	Contained hexamine	Matter taken up with Importers and Ministry
111	Milk	Formal	20.6% deficient in solids-not-fat 22.5% added water	} "Appeal-to-cow" sample taken (No. 118) } No action
118	Milk	Formal	12.8% deficient in solids-not-fat 12% added water	
149	Beefsteak with gravy	Informal	62% meat	Poor quality
151	Turkey Cutlettes	Informal	Incorrectly described	Matter taken up with manufacturers
158	Milk	Formal	15.3% deficient in fat 16.9% deficient in solids-not fat 21.8% added water	} Legal proceedings. Charge of added water not proved
172	Fish Cutlettes	Formal	Incorrectly described	
189	Minced Beef Loaf	Informal	59% meat	Inferior quality. No action
243	Cherry Genoa Cake	Informal	Contained no cherries	No action
246	Grapefruit Squash	Informal	Misleading label	Matter taken up with manufacturers
298	Milk	Informal	5% deficient in fat 1.2% deficient in solids-not-fat	} Same producer. "Appeal-to-cow" samples indicated milk to be naturally deficient
299	Milk	Informal	1.2% deficient in solids-not-fat	
306	Milk	Informal	18.7% deficient in fat 2.4% deficient in solids-not-fat	
313	Milk	Informal	12.5% deficient in fat 1.9% deficient in solids-not-fat	
314	Milk	Formal	5% deficient in fat 4.1% deficient in solids-not-fat	
324	Milk	Formal	6.7% deficient in fat	
326	Milk	Formal	5.9% deficient in solids-not-fat	} Matter taken up with packers
370	Chopped chicken in jelly	Informal	Contained mould. Inadequate auto-claving	
371	Scampi Savoury	Informal	Contained mould. Inadequate auto-claving	} Below minimum legal limit Genuine milks of poor quality
112	Milk	Formal	2.9% fat	
116	Milk	Formal	2.7% fat	
424	Milk	Informal	4.3% fat 7.8% solids-not-fat	
435	Milk	Formal	3.8% fat 7.6% solids-not-fat	
438	Milk	Formal	3.0% fat 8.45% solids-not-fat	

3. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The early provisions of the Clean Air Act which related to the installation of furnaces, heights of chimneys, smoke control areas, etc., came into force at the beginning of 1957. These proved to be a very useful introduction to the Act as a whole the remaining part of which came into force on June 1st, 1958. Other than the Act



itself, the principal measure that came into force this year was the Dark Smoke (Permitted Period) Regulations, 1958, these being made under the Clean Air Act. The Regulations specified the periods of dark smoke which are allowed to be emitted without constituting an offence under the Act. This measure was deemed necessary because of the impracticability of eliminating smoke altogether. There are many installations in use, some hand-fired, which, however well operated, may unavoidably emit dark smoke for short periods, for example, when the furnaces are started up after overnight banking or perhaps when furnaces are cleaned. The periods of dark smoke allowed under the Regulations vary according to the number of furnaces connected to a chimney stack and the type of equipment incorporated in the plant. Periods vary from 10 to 41 minutes in any period of eight hours.

A Circular giving a summary of the provisions mainly affecting industry, was sent before June 1st to factories. Numerous enquiries were received about the requirements of this part of the Act, partly due to the fact that industrial organizations have taken a keen interest in this matter, and partly due also to visits and inspections that have been made over the last two years or so. A considerable number of alterations and conversions were carried out by certain firms whose plants were considered not to be capable of complying with the Regulations. What has been striking in this area is the interest shown by industry, not only in the standards that would have to be complied with, but in seeing how pollution could be reduced to an absolute minimum and how to get the maximum efficiency from fuel burning installations.

Preliminary Investigation Work. For long-term benefit, contact with firms and boiler installations and the investigation into existing and new plant, is most

important and a great deal of work was done in this connection. One hundred and seventy-nine routine visits were made to boiler-houses for the purpose of investigating the circumstances of fuel burning plant, and a record is being built up from the information obtained. At the same time, useful discussions took place with the management and plant operators which has done a great deal to foster understanding between the two view-points. This contact with industry has resulted in quite a few enquiries for information and advice.

Notifications under Section 3 and Examination of Plans, etc. Thirty-one formal notifications of intention to install furnaces were received during the year, and in 9 cases plans and specifications were submitted for approval. All the furnaces submitted for formal approval were oil-fired and included heating, steam raising and direct-fired heating plant. All the installations were formally approved. In two instances, provision was made to provide for a possible change of fuel by installing plant which, at the time of installation, was to be oil-fired but would be capable without much alteration of being converted to solid fuel burning.

It is part of the work of the department to examine plans of buildings submitted to the Authority for bye-law approval. In 22 cases, new chimneys were involved and, having regard to the plant to be served and other general circumstances, the heights had to be assessed. In two instances an increase in height was recommended. The height of chimneys is very important, especially in connection with the discharge of invisible pollutants such as sulphur dioxide. With modern plant, it is possible to operate almost completely smokelessly, but where the fuel used contains appreciable amounts of sulphur, sulphur compounds will be emitted. A lot has been said by Health Authorities on the effect of sulphur dioxide, it was indeed discussed at length by the Beaver Committee, but in view of very practical difficulties, little can be done about it except by dispersal although considerable research is being applied to this particular problem. Of course, it is highly desirable that, wherever it is economically possible, a fuel of low sulphur content should be used, but where this cannot be used, there should be adequate means for dispersal from the chimney. At the present time, the only means of dealing with SO_2 discharge is by controlling chimney height and it is important to note this only applies to new chimneys and even then to certain types of chimney only. An interesting aspect on this question of chimney heights is arising as a result of the development of industrial estates in the town. These comprise mainly small factories having a comparatively small area, with the result that though fuel burning installations are small, there will ultimately be a fair concentration of pollution going into the air from the area as a whole. An assessment of one chimney by itself does not appear to have any great importance, but having regard to the general circumstances of the area, it is desirable that some overall consideration should be given. It has therefore been suggested that unless fuel of a low sulphur content is used, the minimum height of the chimney should be 30 ft. This, of course, is the datum height and should be increased if the circumstances justify it.

Complaints and Observations. A number of complaints were received during the year concerning the discharge of smoke, smuts, grit, fumes, etc., and in all, as a result of complaints and on routine, 173 observations of chimneys were carried out. In three cases, contraventions of Section 1 of the Clean Air Act were noticed, the firms were approached and the advice given resulted in the nuisances being abated. In 9 other instances, the burning of trade wastes was involved—alternative means of disposal were adopted. In many more instances advice was given to management, suggesting changes of fuel, fitting of new equipment and instruments, and the proper maintenance of plant, particularly oil burners. It is often claimed that oil is a smokeless fuel but it is quite evident that oil will give very considerable trouble from smoke and smuts if proper attention is not given to plant. Oil burners are equipment of high precision and unless adequate attention is given, nuisance is certain to arise. The prevalence of complaints of smuts particularly in the area, has under-

lined the importance of this. In one or two cases, it was found that little or no attention whatsoever had been given to plant until complaints were made and attention was called by the department to this important matter. Considerable improvement in the conditions at the East Reading School mentioned in the Annual Report last year has occurred since that time. Investigation has shown that the principal trouble was due to the handling of coke in an adjoining establishment. Water sprays were installed and a screen was erected on the side intervening between the coke and the premises where nuisance was experienced. Coke handling operations have also been considerably reduced and real attempts have been made to change the position for coke stocking. We have been in close contact with the Alkali Works Inspector in connection with this matter and received a considerable amount of help from him.

At the beginning of the year, a formal notice under the Public Health Act was served on the Proprietors of a Laundry because of nuisance due to the emission of excessive smoke and grit. In this case, the plant was converted to oil firing and, apart from a little teething trouble in adjusting to the new conditions, there has been no further trouble.

A number of complaints were received concerning nuisance from fumes arising from galvanizing, transportation of ammoniacal liquor, paint spraying, etc. Appropriate advice has been given in each case. There was one case also of a new industrial process being introduced in a factory in the town and which involved a discharge of toxic gases into the atmosphere. Advice was given on this matter also.

Alkali Works Regulations. A number of industrial premises in Reading are registered under the above Act. Under the provisions of Section 17 of the Clean Air Act, these are to some extent exempt from legal proceedings by the Local Authority. The Minister can, however, on being satisfied regarding certain points, grant Local Authorities full control. Appropriate action is being taken to obtain these powers.

Education and Publicity. It is stated in the Ministry's Memoranda that one of the important factors necessary for the success of the Clean Air Act is a well-informed public, and indeed a very great deal can be done by the public individually in order to bring about a cleaner atmosphere. It was decided early in the year to hold an "Any Questions" Evening in the Small Town Hall, to which members of organizations and the public were invited. A panel of experts in the field of solid fuel burning, gas, electricity and fuel distribution were invited to take part and a very successful evening resulted. The press were good enough to give due prominence to the meeting and it is certain that the effort was well worth while. The Committee also decided to hold in 1959 a Clean Air Exhibition which would show just how atmospheric pollution affects the man in the street and the public as a whole. Of course, smoke knows no boundaries and it is essential if the fullest benefit is to be obtained from this work, that there should be co-ordination on the part of this and other Authorities in the area.

The training of officers to deal with this work was continued at the Reading Technical College this year by another Smoke Inspectors Course. There is every possibility that Reading may become a permanent training centre in this aspect of public health work.

Smoke Control Areas. As was mentioned in the Report last year, the most effective way of dealing with pollution from domestic chimneys is by the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. A survey of the area selected by the Health Committee as the first Smoke Control Area was completed during the year and a Smoke Control Order formally made by the Council. This was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and is to come into force on June 1st, 1959. It is designated as the Reading No. 1 (Coley Park) Smoke Control Order. Further areas of the town have been considered by the Health Committee and a portion of the town centre has

been selected for survey and report with a view to a Smoke Control Area here. This is an area where a certain amount of conversion will be necessary and where there is a variety of types of premises, i.e., domestic, industrial and commercial.

The Coley Park Smoke Control Area was comprised of land on which a Council Estate is being developed, some of the houses are occupied and others are in course of construction. It was felt that probably the best way of introducing the smoke control measures would be to seek householders' co-operation by burning smokeless fuel from the first day they take occupation even though the Order could not be enforced until June 1st, 1959. With the kind collaboration of the Housing Manager, a circular letter was handed to each householder at the time they were offered the tenancy, explaining the implications of a Smoke Control Area and asking them to co-operate. Although mainly due to the difficulty arising from the time of taking the tenancy coinciding with fuel delivery difficulties, there were one or two people who did not use smokeless fuel, the results were reasonably satisfactory. When the Estate is more completely occupied, it is proposed to get the views of individual tenants on these smoke control measures.

The bye-law relating to the installation of new fireplaces came into operation on April 1st. This bye-law is enforced by the Borough Surveyor as part of the Building Bye-laws. The enforcement of this bye-law will mean that all new houses built after that date, will have fireplaces capable of burning any of the authorised fuels, and in the event of the property being included in a Smoke Control Area, adaptation of the fireplace will not be necessary. As there is no Ministry Grant for fireplaces to be adapted in houses built after July 1st, 1956, this is a safeguard for the purchasers of new houses.

Air Pollution Investigation. The Health Committee decided last year to introduce a number of atmospheric pollution measuring instruments in various places in the Borough. Discussions took place with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and also the Department of Geography, Reading University, who were interested in this matter and were themselves taking part in such work. Two types of instrument were decided upon—the lead peroxide candle instrument for measuring active S.O.₂ in the atmosphere, and the volumetric pollution instrument which assesses smoke concentration and the amount of active acidity in the air. Eight Stations for the lead peroxide candle instrument were set up, as follows:—

1. Emmer Green Primary School, Grove Road
2. Caversham Sewage Works
3. Alfred Sutton Secondary Girls School, Cumberland Road
4. Geoffrey Field School, Exbourne Road
5. Water Department Depot, Berkeley Avenue
6. Tilehurst Reservoir, Park Lane, Tilehurst
7. Battle Hospital, Oxford Road
8. E.P. Collier School, York Road.

In addition to these eight, two have been established by the Geography Department, Reading University, one at the "Dreadnought" and one at the University buildings. The volumetric instrument is sited at Bristol & West House. The results which are summarized on page 101 are forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research who are considering atmospheric pollution in the country as a whole.

Although it is very early yet to draw conclusions from these results, comparisons between Summer and Winter are obvious and indicate that however clean the atmosphere of Reading may be, there is considerable room for improvement, particularly in the Winter months. It is hoped to be able to include more detailed information on these results in the next Annual Report.

MONTHLY ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

STATION	Mg. of SO ₃ /day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A Pb O ₂ (louvred cover)							
	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Emmer Green Primary School	0.34	0.35	0.23	0.22	0.48	0.67	1.25	1.07
2. Caversham Sewage Works ...	0.40	0.32	0.25	0.21	0.40	0.61	1.02	1.21
3. Alfred Sutton Secondary Girls School	0.58	0.62	0.56	0.37	0.52	0.78	1.50	1.49
4. Geoffrey Field School	0.32	0.27	0.24	0.19	0.39	0.64	1.31	*
5. Water Dept. Depot, Berkeley Avenue	0.26	0.32	0.23	0.21	0.51	0.68	1.64	1.49
6. Tilehurst Reservoir, Park Lane, Tilehurst	0.26	0.26	0.14	0.12	0.35	0.52	1.03	0.83
7. Battle Hospital	0.50	0.50	0.34	0.27	0.67	0.74	1.49	1.46
8. E.P. Collier School	0.56	0.56	0.43	0.41	0.81	0.88	1.85	1.95
10. Reading University, Dept. of Geography	—	0.35	0.32	*	0.40	0.11	1.66	1.25
11. Reading University, Dreadnought	—	0.57	0.49	*	0.62	0.70	1.99	1.48
*No results available								

DAILY ESTIMATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR
DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS

STATION 9. BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE

MONTH	SMOKE Mgms./100 cu. metres		SULPHUR DIOXIDE parts per 100 million	
	Maximum	Average	Maximum	Average
May	8.2	2.6	7.3	2.5
June	5.3	2.5	4.1	2.6
July	7.6	2.2	4.0	2.1
August	6.7	2.2	3.4	1.9
September	10.5	3.7	5.9	3.1
October	14.9	5.2	8.5	4.6
November	24.5	9.7	22.1	8.6
December	17.3	8.4	13.9	7.9

4. NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Some 528 complaints were received by the Department from residents in the Borough concerning many matters. Six hundred and three informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects, the latter notices being referred to under the section on Housing. Some 528 of the notices served were complied with. Attention to obstructed and affected sewers and drains is a matter of routine but some 227 complaints were dealt with during 1958. It was found necessary to clear 501 drains or sewers and in a number of cases repairs also were necessary. There were 37 cases where the owners of the properties involved effected the necessary work. The vast majority of drainage jobs are automatically carried out by the Corporation and the cost of the work is apportioned to individual owners according to the extent of use enjoyed by each property. In some cases it was necessary to call up workmen on Saturday afternoons or Sundays to deal with obstructed drains as a matter of urgency and it is appropriate once again that reference should be made to the excellent co-operation given by the staff of the Borough Surveyor's Department who dealt promptly and willingly with those cases, many of which arose at inopportune times. Two thousand, one hundred and sixty-one visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year on matters concerning drainage.

A number of minor complaints were received during the year concerning the throwing of rubbish, etc., into the Kennet and Avon Canal. Attention was given to these complaints by the Thames Conservancy Board who also carried out ditching work on the Berry Brook at Caversham.

A number of complaints have also been received from residents in newly built houses in the Coley area in connection with fumes discharged from an industrial plant involving galvanizing. The case was discussed with the management of the firm and whilst it is stressed that there is no accepted remedy for this type of problem, they have undertaken to consult specialist firms with a view to installing a pilot purification plant. Much will depend upon the effectiveness of the remedy and the costs involved, but the firm expressed their concern in the matter and have undertaken to do whatever they can to put things right. This case might be quoted as an example of how, because of land shortage, mixed development, i.e., the construction of dwellings in close proximity to industrial premises, is being forced upon us with the consequent penalty of a certain degree of nuisance. It must be accepted that where dwellings are placed near to potential nuisance-causing establishments, there must be some effect on the standards of amenity.

Installation of Main Drainage. Two premises, 198 and 200 Whitley Wood Lane, were provided with water carriage drainage and water closets and connected to the main sewer during the year. It was possible to do this because of an extension to the public sewer in Whitley Wood Lane. Applications for grants under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were received and it was decided to make a contribution of £25 in each case.

Disinfection and Disinfestation—Insanitary Premises. The treatment of verminous persons is no longer the problem that it was. The number of people coming forward for treatment has fairly consistently decreased year by year and during 1958 the number was only two. They were treated at the school clinic. So far as verminous premises are concerned, 75 complaints were received and 72 houses were found to be infested. Forty-two involved infestations by bed bugs, whilst 30 were affected by fleas. It is rather interesting to note that flea complaints were predominant in the months of July and August. There is no practical explanation of this interesting point and one wonders whether over this period the climatic conditions were more suitable for this type of pest. In addition to the treatment of

premises for bugs and fleas, 35 visits were paid to premises in connection with cockroaches, flies, etc., and either treatment or appropriate advice given. It is a matter of routine for the Department to inspect houses from which people are being re-housed by the Corporation, the purpose being to ensure as far as possible that infestation from vermin or wood-boring beetles is not transferred from the old house to the new.

There were several cases again in 1958 involving dirty and insanitary premises. These mainly concerned old people who by reason of age or infirmity had lost contact with neighbours or relatives and were living in unsatisfactory conditions. One or two cases involved young people with children. A great deal of tact was necessary in these cases, particularly with the old people and the Domestic Help Service did a great deal not only in the manner in which they carried out the physical work of cleaning, but by their sympathetic approach. The main difficulty is often in making the initial visit as old people are reluctant to admit that they are unable to carry on themselves. It is pleasing to note, however, that once the Service was able to make a start on the work, they were welcomed and very much appreciated by the persons involved. With one or two of the cases involving young people it was necessary to report the circumstances to the Health Committee for the purpose of instituting formal action. The service of statutory notices under the Public Health Act achieved the necessary results and there was no need to institute prosecutions.

Common Lodging Houses. There have been three registered common lodging houses in the town for many years but the conditions have been a source of concern to the Department, particularly in recent times. There was a change of tenancy in the smallest lodging house, 5/5a Silver Street, in 1958 and the opportunity was taken to close the premises formally under the Housing Act, 1957. Formal action was also taken under the Housing Acts in respect of 23/25 Silver Street, with a view to closing the premises. This will mean that with the elimination of two of the lodging houses, only the one in London Street and owned by the Corporation will remain. The work of repair to the London Street common lodging house continued during the year and the place is as satisfactory as one can hope for in the circumstances.

Infectious Diseases. One hundred and ninety-nine inspections of premises were made during the year following notifications of infectious diseases. Defective conditions in houses were taken up with the owners and notices requiring repairs were served as necessary. In one or two cases where contacts were connected with the food industry, it was necessary to arrange with the employing firms that contacts should not handle food.

Offensive Trades. The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise 1 blood drier, 1 tripe boiler and dresser, and 1 rag and bone dealer. The three premises were regularly inspected and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Movable Dwellings. At the end of the year, 139 caravans were on the register compared with 131 in 1957. Of these, 86 were stationed on two large caravan sites, one in Tilehurst being licensed for 66, and one in Scours Lane being licensed for 20. The remaining 53 are on small sites in various parts of the Borough. There has been a slight reduction in the number of individual caravans, the increase in the overall figure being due to the extension of the large site at Norcot. It is relevant to note that the Minister has instituted an enquiry into the circumstances of caravan dwelling. Whilst no doubt Reading as a County Borough has its share, it is not the problem here that is to be found in other districts, but it seems desirable that there should be some more effective form of control over this type of development. There was a fluctuation with the individual caravan sites, some were removed on completion of the dwelling house adjoining which caravans were kept in many instances, the numbers being made up in the main by others who were building their own house and

living in a caravan until the house is complete. Temporary caravan living is becoming the frequent practice amongst private house builders. It is probably an economical way of spending the interim period between the acquisition of land and the completion of the house, and provided the caravan use is not continued after the house completion, it would appear to have done a very useful service.

Nine hundred and sixteen visits were paid to caravans and caravan sites, and movable dwellings visiting the area with travelling Fairs and Shows.

Swimming Baths. During the year, 46 samples of water were obtained from public swimming baths and 34 from school swimming baths in the town and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All of these proved satisfactory.

The two learner pools, one at Hill Primary and the other at Grove School, Emmer Green, appear to be operating satisfactorily. Another learner pool came into operation for the first time—the one at the No. IX School. Advice was given to the Authorities here on the means of sterilisation to be adopted. The Parks Committee decided during the year to dispense with the Paddling pool on the Thames Promenade. The one at Christchurch Meadow was the subject of a certain amount of experimental work to see how water conditions could be improved without the necessity of setting up expensive plant and equipment.

Drinking Water. Twenty-two samples of water were obtained from private Wells in the town which are used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trade processes. Investigations were necessary in respect of 2 samples and appropriate action was taken. Owing to the very heavy rains during the Summer of 1958, the Water Department were having difficulty with turbidity and asked for an increase in sampling by this Department. Some 36 samples were obtained and examined by the Public Health Laboratory. All proved satisfactory.

5. GENERAL

Factories Acts, 1937-48. There are 664 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose; 440 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year and requests by Inspectors have, in the main, been promptly dealt with; 7 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. It was necessary to serve 28 written notices during the year. The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 61 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 12 were referred to other Local Authorities, 49 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.

The work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in their inspection of factories is to ensure that the premises comply with the Factories Acts so far as the Local Authority's responsibilities extend, except in so far as means of escape in case of fire are concerned, which is the responsibility of the Fire Brigade. Visits were also made to factories following complaints of nuisance which are dealt with under the Public Health Act.

All plans of proposed factory and other buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building Bye-laws, are examined by this department from the point of view of the Factories Acts and Public Health Act and as regards potential nuisance. The Clean Air Act has meant a considerable increase in the amount of work involved in the examination of plans.

Canteens and kitchens, etc., which are now available in many factories, were also submitted to inspection by the District Public Health Inspectors. The standard of

hygiene observed in these establishments, together with the structure of kitchens and amenities provided therewith, were matters also under supervision.

The tables shown below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the annual return to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	115	114	4
Factories with mechanical power ...	549	326	24
	664	440	28

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences :— Insufficient ...	3	1	—	2
Unsuitable or defective ...	23	20	—	4
	30	25	—	7

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951. There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. Twelve inspections were made of these premises and 10 samples of filling materials submitted for examination. One sample of loose rag flock was reported as unsatisfactory due to the presence of excessive chlorine, although the excess was not high. The circumstances were taken up with the firm concerned.

Canal Boats. Thirty-seven visits were made to the wharves of the Thames and Kennet and there was no activity to report except for two canal boats which made pleasure trips as part of a publicity campaign to keep the Kennet and Avon canal navigable. The two boats were satisfactory.

Places of Entertainment. Eight visits were paid to the various places of public entertainments. There were no complaints by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

Shops Act. Visits were paid to all types of shops in the town as a routine duty. A number of inspections were also made on receipt of complaints from the Shops Act Inspector responsible for hours of closing, etc. In 4 cases Certificates of Exemption were granted in respect of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

Pet Animals Act, 1951. Seven licences were issued in 1958 under the above Act.

Rodent Control. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Although it is encouraging to see there is a reduction in the number of complaints received regarding rats or mice during 1958, compared with the previous year, rodent control is one aspect of the work of the Department which must receive constant attention. There have been no changes in the methods adopted in disinfestation, and "Warfarin" has been used almost exclusively in the baits, in regard to both rats and mice. The rodent operatives have been instructed to be particularly careful when laying the baits around pigsties, as "Warfarin" has been found to be toxic to pigs, and to a lesser degree, to other domestic animals.

During 1958, 2,282 visits were made to premises in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and 128 business premises and 368 private dwellings were found to be infested with either rats or mice. Wherever it has been considered necessary, proofing methods have been recommended to the owners, and this has been carried out in every instance.

Wherever conditions have been suitable, surface infestation has been dealt with on the block system and altogether 12,158 premises were surveyed. This includes treatment of the sewers and drains in the neighbourhood of the infestation in order to eradicate the source. Altogether the number of infestations caused by a defective drain or sewer was 18 compared with 21 in the previous year. In each case, after the drains were satisfactory repaired, the infestation ceased.

The main sewers were again systematically treated twice during the year, in order to reduce the rat population, and the results obtained are most encouraging. The details of the treatment are as follows:—

	Manholes Tested	Manholes showed take	Visits
1st Maintenance	324	35	777
2nd Maintenance	342	24	718

It does appear that since "Warfarin" has been used, the number of baits taken from the manholes has become considerably smaller. Furthermore, it has been noticed that when baits have been taken, more of the "Warfarin" bait has been eaten than when arsenic or zinc phosphide was used. This does confirm that the rats have a greater affinity for the "Warfarin" and it is hoped that ultimately the rat population in the sewers will be reduced to controllable numbers. Even now, most sections of the town have continued to show untouched baits in the sewers for some years.

Regular inspections are carried out to the refuse tips, and it is pleasing to note that the sites used for controlled tipping have been sufficiently well managed that they have been virtually free from rodent infestation, and routine visits have been reduced to a minimum. The hospitals in the town also received regular inspections, treatment has been carried out wherever necessary, but generally conditions were found to be quite satisfactory. The treatment of domestic premises for rats and mice destruction is carried out free of charge, but payment is required when work is carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1957-1958, the income in respect of this work was £150.

Other Pests. In addition to the rodent control work carried out during the year, some 179 complaints were investigated concerning wasps, bees, hornets, pigeons, starlings, rabbits, badgers, etc. Some 136 wasp's nests were dealt with, it being possible to remove the combs completely in 126 instances. Payment is required when work is carried out in connection with the destruction of wasps' nests and during the financial year 1957-58, the income in respect of this work was £51.

Only 1 complaint was received regarding rabbits, and it does appear that the

concentrated effort which the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food has invited, is at last showing results.

It is impossible to place too much emphasis upon the nuisance caused in the town by pigeons. Although there is a natural distaste for rats and mice, the pigeon continues to receive sympathetic treatment, and the nuisance caused by the fouling of buildings and rain-water pipes, etc., remains unabated. Unfortunately, there are still a few well-meaning citizens who make a practice of feeding these pigeons regularly, and whilst there is a readily available food supply and suitable nesting places on buildings remain unfenced, it will be impossible to completely eliminate the nuisance.

The only successful method of dealing with pigeons does appear to be by trapping and the destruction of eggs, and during the year, 179 pigeons were trapped and 207 eggs were destroyed by the staff of the rodent control section of the department.

RODENT CONTROL

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Refuse Tips	Corporation Property	Agricultural Property	Total
Complaints ... 498						
Complaints on Survey, etc. 64	404	128	—	28	2	562
Re Complaints	1574	550	—	124	10	14,440
Others ...	10,087	2,001	24	70	—	
Premises found clear ...	36	—	—	—	—	36
Premises found infested ...	368	128	—	28	2	526
Number of Rats picked up ...	128	80	—	20	8	236
Estimated kill—Rats ...	431	190	—	64	16	701
Number of Mice picked up ...	129	128	—	25	—	282
Estimated Kill—Mice ...	394	425	—	53	—	872

SEWER MAINTENANCE

1st Maintenance:-	324 manholes tested	35 manholes showed take	— 777 visits
2nd	342	24	— 718

COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. K. H. Thorpe, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, has supplied the following information:—

House Refuse Collection. During 1958, the collection of house refuse has continued once weekly. The service is maintained by 15 house refuse collection vehicles and 59 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of house refuse collected from premises within the Borough with the total mileage of vehicles used in this collection:—

Quarter ending :	1958		1957	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	9,240	28,732	8,839	28,789
30th June	8,872	29,539	8,733	27,309
30th September	8,313	30,838	8,326	27,786
31st December	9,812	29,768	9,119	27,841
Totals ...	36,237	118,877	35,017	111,725

Trade refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal Tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

Street Cleansing. The “ beat ” system of street cleansing by street orderlies has been maintained and proves to be a satisfactory method. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks which are visited by street cleansing freighters for the collection of accumulated refuse.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing:—

	1958	1957
Men	50	47
Boys	4	1

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of the collection vehicles (the table includes figures for the two Mechanical Sweeper Collectors).

Quarter ending :	1958		1957	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	850	4,249	780	4,511
30th June	730	3,948	715	4,228
30th September	660	4,326	520	4,093
31st December	710	4,684	690	4,163
Totals ...	2,950	17,207	2,705	16,995

Street Gulley Cleansing. Eight thousand, four hundred and sixty-seven street gullies were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles.

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1957-1958:—

Quarter ending :			1958		1957	
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	344	2,582	381	2,532
30th June	...	...	368	2,415	164	1,017
30th September	...	...	324	2,457	224	764
31st December	...	...	448	2,287	332	1,281
Totals			1,484	9,741	1,101	5,594

Cesspool Emptying. All domestic cesspools are emptied by two mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles upon receipt of instructions from occupiers or owners of premises, within the Borough, with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

Sewage Disposal. For the first time during recent years the volume of sewage received was no higher than preceding years, i.e., 5,670,000 gallons per day. The effluent was usually unsatisfactory in some respect when judged by Thames Conservancy standards.

Anionic synthetic detergents in the raw sewage decreased slightly, the average concentration being 10.6 parts per million. The final effluent still contained some 6 parts per million and showed a tendency to foam.

The monohydric phenol content of the final effluent was slightly higher than in previous years averaging 0.32 parts per million.

The wet summer reduced the amount of sludge which was dried and lifted from the drying beds to 3,500 cubic yards. This was sold to horticultural and agricultural users.

It is proposed that a sonic filtration plant for sludge de-watering should be installed; this would be a pilot plant and laboratory work is being carried out to ascertain the suitability of Reading sludge for this process.

The construction of the new sewage disposal works proceeded steadily throughout 1958 and it is expected to commission the following portions in May, 1959; Blakes Lock new Pumping Station; the new rising main from there to Manor Farm; the new inlet works at Manor Farm consisting of comminutors, detritor, sedimentation tanks and sludge pumping station.

Work will commence, early in 1959, on the main contract for the construction of the remainder of the new sewage disposal works.

Sewerage. During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1958, 243 private houses and bungalows were connected to the foul sewerage system. In addition, several new Corporation houses and flats were connected.

Seven private houses were built with cesspool drainage and 20 private houses previously having cesspool drainage were connected to the main foul sewers. The total number of houses within the Borough with cesspools is now 495 a reduction of 13 since last year.

The only main foul drainage work during the year consisted of the St. Peter's Avenue foul sewer.

Swimming and Slipper Baths. The swimming bath facilities proved very popular and the attendances were well maintained. Attendances were also maintained at the two slipper baths.

The number of persons using the facilities during the year ended December 31st, 1958, was:—

Arthur Hill Baths—Swimming Pool	...	...	123,213
Slipper Baths	...	...	14,560
King's Meadow Bath	...	...	39,510
Coley Bathing Place	...	...	18,202
West Reading Bathing Place	...	...	4,141
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths	...	...	16,431

HOUSING

(These comments should be read in conjunction with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.)

Mr. C. H. A. Willett, Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

During the calendar year 1958, 593 dwellings of all types were taken over. That year saw the production of housing accommodation proceeding apace, especially in connection with the multi-storey flats on the Bath Road frontage, where 226 flats and maisonettes were completed and occupied.

Work on the St. Michael's Estate and the extension to this estate was completed during 1958. A block of five shops was completed on the main estate, thus providing a valuable service in that district.

On the Coley Park Estate 185 dwellings were completed, including three blocks of five-storey maisonettes. During the year another contract for 40 dwellings was started.

Contracts for a further 78 houses and one block of 26 bed-sitting room flats will start in the early part of 1959 on Coley Park Estate. In addition a scheme for five shops with maisonettes over is in course of preparation.

Tenders were invited and work started on the erection of a number of dwellings on small sites in the Borough, as well as on a new site to accommodate 69 dwellings, and some garages, along a newly formed road running from the end of Blagdon Road Whitley Estate up into Hazel Crescent on the Shinfield Estate—this road will form a very useful link between the two estates, which will then be joined together by houses as well as a new road.

Three blocks of five-storey maisonettes and flats in Northumberland Avenue Whitley, were also completed in 1958.

The 40 single-persons flats in two blocks in Brunswick Street are now completed. 23 in 1958 and 17 in January of this year, the tenants being single business women. These flats are the first of their kind to be built in Reading and this Authority is among the first in the country to provide this type of accommodation. Each flat has a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. Background heating is provided by electric under floor heating in the living room, kitchen and hall and domestic hot water by an immersion heater in a cylinder in the linen cupboard. A television aerial system has been provided for receiving B.B.C., I.T.V. or V.H.F. transmissions. On the ground floor of each block is a heated and furnished Common Room provided for the

tenants' use for social activities. Also on the ground floor is a Utility Room with an electric washing machine and spin dryer (both controlled through a pre-payment meter) and a sink unit. Fifteen garages have been built on the site and a car park area provided for each block.

Contained in the total of 593 dwellings completed during 1958 are 32 flatlets on various sites for Aged Persons: each flatlet contains a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. The living room has an open fire with back boiler to provide hot water and an immersion heater is fitted in the hot water cylinder in the linen cupboard for use during the summer. More of these flatlets are to be built at the Coley Park and Burghfield Road Estates, and 12 are at present under construction on the Blagdon Road site and a further 4 on an in-fill site on the Park Farm Housing Estate.

Building on the first of the out-borough sites in the London Road near the Central Electricity Authority Power Station has continued and the first houses were taken over in March, 1959. This small site, partly developed by private enterprise in pre-war days, has been taken over by the Corporation and will be completed in 1959 by the erection of 70 houses and 8 garages.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Part III & IV

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

(a) **General Considerations.** Early in 1958 we transferred to the Housing Department out duties in connection with the rehousing of elderly people. This was found to be necessary owing to pressure of other work, although the experience gained of the conditions under which many old people were living was most valuable.

In last year's Report I mentioned that Mr. Turnbull retired on March 31st, 1958 after forty-six years' service with the Corporation and I also gave a survey of the work which he had carried out during the time he was officer in charge of the Residence Section. Therefore, I will not repeat this information.

(b) **Part III Accommodation.** At the same time I would like to say that the demand for Part III accommodation continues unabated. On December 31st, 1958 there were 27 men and 58 women awaiting admission, although on that date we already had 283 people in Part III accommodation either in the town itself or in other establishments. The table below gives particulars of the admissions during 1958:—

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admission							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admissions (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	2	—	—	4	3	12	—	—	3	16
Wychcotes	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Warren House	—	—	—	3	—	7	—	—	—	10
Parkhurst	—	—	8	—	14	—	1	—	22	—
Arthur Clark Home	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	5
Southern Hill	1	—	9	1	17	1	—	—	26	2
Dysons Wood	—	2	—	8	—	8	—	1	—	16
Alice Jenkins Home	—	14	—	4	—	16	—	1	—	20
	3	17	17	22	34	49	1	2	51	71
	20		39		83		3		122	



The New Alice Jenkins Home



RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION—December 31st, 1958

			Persons (exclusive of staff) residing in					Total
			Homes in the possession of the Council whose normal bed complement for residential accommodation is:—			Premises vested in the Minister as hospitals	Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations	
			Less than 35	35-70	over 70			
Not materially Handicapped	aged		1	2	3	4	5	6
		M. F.	25	63 30			6	63 61
	not aged	M. F.						
Blind	aged	M. F.		4 4			2	4 7
	not aged	M. F.					1	1
Deaf	aged	M. F.					1	1
	not aged	M. F.						
Epileptic	aged	M. F.					2	2
	not aged	M. F.					1	1
Others physically Handicapped	aged	M. F.	47	40 43			1	40 91
	not aged	M. F.		1 2			2 2	3 4
Mentally Handicapped	aged	M. F.						
	not aged	M. F.		2				2
Grand Total			73	189			18	280

I think the change which strikes me more forcibly than possibly than anything else is the change in the type of person who is now being admitted to Part III accommodation. Nine or ten years ago we had a fair proportion of people who were reasonably active and were able, to a certain extent, to help with the chores of the Homes and also were able to look after themselves fairly well. But of recent years newcomers have shown an increasing degree of infirmity and they now require much more individual attention than they did a few years ago. Furthermore, the incidence of temporary and terminal illnesses has considerably increased, thereby causing an increase in the amount of nursing attention which is required. Ground floor accommodation becomes even more necessary. We are being faced with the problem of caring for bed-fast residents, sometimes in different parts of a building. I fear that the time has now come when we must give serious consideration to setting aside one or two establishments where the more infirm people can be cared for. Distasteful as this may be in many cases I fear that we have little alternative. Members will know that a great deal of our accommodation is in adapted old houses and I am pleased to report that the Committee are giving serious consideration to the provision of lifts in these houses. We are coming to the situation when we are unable to use some of the beds on the top floors because the residents cannot climb stairs. In previous reports I have mentioned the great benefit which we have derived from the installation of a lift at Woodlands.

In September we opened our first purpose-built Home in Liebenrood Road. This accommodates 40 elderly ladies. This, of course, is provided with a lift and

modern facilities. The opening of this Home also enabled us to transfer the remaining female residents from Southern Hill, leaving this Home solely for the use of male residents and occasional married couples.

Appropriately enough this Home was named after the late Alderman Mrs. Alice Jenkins whose great interest in this type of work will be remembered by the senior members of the Council.

The table on p. 113 gives the classification of residents in our Homes as at December 31st, 1958.

I am pleased to report also progress in the plans for the extension of the Arthur Clark Home. We hope this Home will be extended to accommodate 42 elderly ladies instead of the present 20. This again will be provided with a lift.

During the year the Central Entertainments Committee has been very active and, as a result of the many fetes, whist drives and At-Home it has organised, our residents have enjoyed afternoon coach tours, trips to the sea, Christmas gifts and many other amenities which help to make their lives happier.

Temporary Accommodation. The following table gives particulars of the use of temporary accommodation at Woodlands during the year:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions	—	59	33	92
Maintenance Days	—	335	429	764
Remaining on Dec. 31st, 1958	—	—	—	—

SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

The standard charge was increased from £5 12s. 0d. to £6 0s. 9d. per head per week as from August 1st, 1958. The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents according to the scale in use during 1958:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands	£7,101	5	6
Wychcotes	1,414	0	0
Warren House	2,351	14	0
Parkhurst	5,456	15	5
Southern Hill	4,998	5	4
Arthur Clark Home	1,894	12	1
Dysons Wood	2,296	18	10
Alice Jenkins Home	731	19	7

SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

Several cases have been dealt with under this Section, and agreement has been reached in each case without reference to the Minister for a decision.

SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Liaison between both departments is extremely good. Ease of working has resulted, and in many cases help has been given by both Departments to persons in need of accommodation.

SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The following table shows the numbers and categories of persons who were resident in special Homes and chargeable to the County Borough:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm	1	8
Blind	4	5
Cripples	1	3
Deaf and Dumb	1	—
Epileptic	1	2
Spastic	1	—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) **Deaf and Dumb.** Arrangements with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. The following table gives particulars of people on the Register at the end of the year:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16	—	—
Persons aged 16-64	36	40
Persons aged 65 and over	4	4

Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, has given me the following notes on his work.

Religious. Evening Services 42, Holy Communion Services 13, Baptism Services (Interpretation) 2, Funeral Service (Interpretation) 1.

Special Services. 1st Anniversary of new Chapel—September 14th, 1958. Attended Diocesan Harvest Festival at Oxford—September 28th, 1958.

Mothers' Union Branch. 22 meetings, including 5 church services. Other meetings: Sewing Circle in preparation for Sale of Work and some games afternoons. Visit to Reading Palace Theatre to see pantomime—January 10th, 1958. Annual Outing to Weymouth—May 29th, 1958. Attended Deanery Festival, St. Mary's Church—June 3rd, 1958. Attended M.U. Service and Garden Party, St. Michael's Church. Sale of Work on November 22nd, 1958—realised £55 donated to Building Fund.

Employment. 13 males and 9 females placed into employment. Constant visits made to factories, etc., to explain things and sort out difficulties. One boy aged 15 interviewed with Youth Employment Officer to find out his capabilities.

Social. New Year Party in Town Hall on February 1st, 1958—170 present. Outing to Hampton Court—Easter Monday, April 7th. Sports Rally—June 28th at Slough—Reading won Championship Cup. Annual outing to Southend—outward journey by coach—return via River Thames to Tower Bridge. Organised holidays: 5 went to Blackpool for 2 weeks in August. Cricket Teams. 2 table tennis teams in Reading & District Table Tennis League. 2 billiard teams in Reading Borough Tuesday Billiard League. Numerous visits to other Clubs for friendly visits. Private party—St. John's Hall, December 20th, 1958. Christmas Day—Centre open for 40 persons.

Children. Children's Party on January 1st, 1958. Visit to Chessington Zoo August 20th, 1958—37 children and parents.

Aged People. May 2nd for one week—12 old people went to Ryde, Isle of Wight. Each pensioner received gift of 10/- at Christmas.

Welfare. Interpretation supplied in:—Hospital examinations, doctors' surgeries, courts of law, police stations, solicitors' offices, National Assistance Board.

Example Cases. Arranging for children of deaf to enter Nursery Schools. Purchasing house for deaf couple. Dealing with a married woman who had a coloured child which was not her husband's. Searching for a married woman who left her husband. Arranging for divorce proceedings. Approaching Housing Authority. Young man turned out of home—finding lodgings and supervising him for past 4 months.

(b) **Hard of Hearing.** Our arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association continued as in previous year. The register on December 31st, 1958, was as follows:—

						M.	F.
Children under 16	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Persons aged 16-24	...	...	...	...	...	19	29
Persons aged 65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	9	29

Mrs. D. Hammond, Secretary of the Reading & District Hard of Hearing Association, reports that the Association is still functioning to the benefit of its members on a social and educational point of view. It makes a special point of teaching lip reading which proves to be so helpful for those with defective hearing. Its membership remains fairly static and all its members help with the activities of the Club which has arranged various outings during the year, including a very successful Christmas party.

(c) **Blind.** The general arrangements for this work continued as previously in close collaboration with the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind.

Miss Lowe, the Blind Welfare Officer, also acts as Secretary for the Association and has supplied the following information:—

On December 31st, 1958, there were 220 blind people on the register, 83 males and 137 females. The age groups are as follows:—

							Male	Female	Total
1-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5-15	„	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
16-20	„	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
21-29	„	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
30-39	„	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
40-49	„	...	...	...	...	7	6	13
50-59	„	...	...	...	...	9	17	26
60-64	„	...	...	...	...	4	11	15
65-69	„	...	...	...	...	5	16	21
70-79	„	...	...	...	...	23	39	62
80 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	25	43	68
							—	—	—
							83	137	220
							—	—	—

Age at which Blindness occurred

					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	9	13	22
1-4 years	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
5-15	„	...	...	...	4	2	6
16-20	„	...	...	...	3	1	4
21-29	„	...	...	...	5	2	7
30-39	„	...	...	...	5	10	15
40-49	„	...	...	...	8	11	19
50-59	„	...	...	...	6	25	31
60-69	„	...	...	...	13	26	39
70-79	„	...	...	...	20	25	45
80 years and over	...	...	...	...	10	19	29
					—	—	—
					83	137	220
					—	—	—

During the year there were 19 new registrations, 3 transfers-in, 29 deaths, 1 de-registered and 4 transfers-out to other areas resulting in a decrease of 12 on the total for 1957.

Of the 19 registered blind during the year 13 were over 70 years of age, 4 were over 60 years, 1 woman was 59 and a man aged 42 years.

Partially-Sighted Register. There are 117 persons on this register at the end of the year, 34 males and 83 females.

The age groups are as follows:—

					Male	Female	Total
5-15 years	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
16-20	„	...	...	...	1	2	3
21-49	„	...	...	...	3	9	12
50-64	„	...	...	...	5	10	15
65 and over	...	...	...	...	21	58	79
					—	—	—
					34	83	117
					—	—	—

During the year there were 19 additions to the register, 2 transfers-in, 3 deaths, 3 transfers-out and 2 people were admitted to the Blind register after re-examination.

The register is divided into the following groups for those aged 16 and over:—

Persons near and prospectively blind	...	...	12
Persons mainly industrially handicapped	...	...	12
Persons requiring observation only	...	...	85

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially-sighted Persons :—

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F (1) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—				
(a) No treatment	3	1	1	6
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical)	14	4	—	9
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	3	—	3

Home Workers. The machine-knitter and piano tuner have remained our only home workers for another year and both have maintained the earnings required to qualify for augmentation.

Rehabilitation and Training. One partially-sighted man completed his course at Torquay early in the year but his health has prevented him from seeking employment. A registered blind man also went to Torquay for the rehabilitation course and though it has not been possible to place him in employment locally he is at present working in London.

A partially-sighted woman commenced the course in December and it is anticipated that she will qualify for training as a telephone operator, in which case it is hoped that Messrs. John Lewis (for whom she formerly worked) will be able to find a place for her in one of their branches.

Employed Persons. 25 blind and partially-sighted persons are employed as shorthand-typists, factory operatives, telephone operators, piano tuners, masseurs, domestic workers, etc. One is employed by the Royal National Institute for the Blind as Appeals Organiser for Reading and Berkshire and he works very hard to ensure an increased collection each year to enable us to continue to meet and expand our range of services for the Blind people in this County Borough.

Walford House. This house, providing three bed-sitting rooms furnished by the Association has been fully occupied for a year and the tenants enjoy a feeling of security. They share the use of the kitchen but each has a gas-ring in her room and the rooms are heated by gas fires. The charge for gas is included in the rent to avoid the trouble of finding shillings for a meter.

Shop Sales. The amount raised from shop sales totals £250, a decrease of £55 on the previous year. We attribute this to increased competition and to the fact that one or two of those who used to do a considerable amount of work for the shop are not now able to do it and they have not been replaced by those newly-registered blind.

Holiday Fund. 90 people have saved up for their holidays during the year and a total of £573 was paid out in grants and towards the costs of fares. A party of 26 went to Worthing early in May and enjoyed special terms for their fortnight by the sea.

Winter Coal. Voluntary funds again supplied gifts of coal to all the blind people, ranging from 2 cwt. each for the younger ones to 10 cwt. for those over 70 years of age.

Social Activities. The monthly social club with its committee of blind members has arranged a varied programme for the enjoyment of all. We are indebted to members of the Round Table and Toc H for providing transport for this and other special events throughout the year.

The weekly Pastime Classes have continued throughout the year. The men's basket class meets on Mondays and Thursdays (morning and afternoon on each day) and the women's class on Monday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon is devoted to games, dominoes and lexicon proving the most popular.

During the Summer outings were arranged to Worthing and Swanage and half-day trips to Wallingford and Oxford and to Basildon at the invitation of the Women's Institute. Unfavourable weather caused the Garden Party to be held indoors but about 200 blind people and guides enjoyed the social gathering.

We are indebted to a number of people, societies and firms who render service in many varied ways all of which help to make life easier and brighter for the blind folk of this town.

(d) REPORT OF CONSULTING OPHTHALMIC SURGEON

Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with his work during the year:—

During 1958, 44 patients were examined for admission to the Blind Register. Of these 3 had been previously examined.

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially Sighted	Total
Cataract	3	—	4	7
Glaucoma	3	—	2	5
Myopia	—	—	7	7
Retinal Conditions	4	2	2	8
Congenital Conditions	1	—	2	3
Infective Conditions	2	—	1	3
Degenerative conditions	6	—	4	10
Normal	—	1	—	1
	19	3	22	44

Ages

Under 20

40-60

60-70

70-80

80-100

2

4

15

10

13

Cataract. Of the 3 patients blind from cataract one had had cataract extraction on both eyes, one eye showing optic atrophy and the other aphakic glaucoma. One patient refused operation and surgery was not urged in the case of the blind patient who was aged 89. One of the partially sighted patients had cataract, thought to be traumatic, in one eye only, another had macula degeneration as well as cataract, and another in addition to cataract had advanced cerebral arterio sclerosis and, in one eye, closed angle glaucoma. In the two latter cases operation was inadvisable owing to the patient's general condition.

Glaucoma. One of the patients blind from glaucoma had had one eye enucleated and an iridectomy had retained 2/60 vision in the other. The second was complicated by cataract and herpes ophthalmicus. Left cataract extraction had failed and extraction of the right cataract was contemplated but with poor prognosis. The third patient had cataract and macula degeneration as well as glaucoma. Of the partially-sighted patients one had lost the right eye from absolute glaucoma, the left retaining 6/18 (i) vision following operation.

Myopia. All the patients under this heading were partially-sighted. Two had cataract, 1 had glaucoma and 1 had muscle paresis in addition to the myopia.

Retinal Conditions. Of the 4 patients blind in this category one had retinitis pigmentosa, another had had a retinal detachment following cataract extraction, the third had a diabetic retinopathy and the fourth had bilateral retinal cysts. One partially-sighted patient had had a central vein thrombosis in one eye and the other had choroidal sclerosis and macula degeneration.

Congenital Conditions. The blind patient was suffering from congenital rotary nystagmus and had a conical cornea in the right eye. One of the partially-sighted patients was a child of 5 with optic atrophy and nystagmus in both eyes with fibroplasia in one due to prematurity. The other was a girl of 18 with congenital nystagmus and albinism in addition to high myopia.

Infective Conditions. One of the 2 blind patients had uveitis with secondary cataract due to sarcoid. Cataract extraction would be attempted when the infective condition was quiescent. The other patient also suffered from uveitis with keratitis in addition to cataract. This condition was tuberculous. The partially sighted patient had interstitial keratitis and iritis.

Degenerative Conditions. 5 of the 6 blind patients had macula degeneration, one of the disciform variety. The 6th had optic atrophy due to disseminated sclerosis. Of the partially sighted 3 had macula degeneration and 1 a hypertensive retinopathy.

(e) OTHER CLASSES OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

This work continued to increase and we were fortunate towards the end of the year to be able to appoint another Officer to assist Mrs. Snow.

Mrs. Snow, the Welfare Officer for this particular section of the department has submitted the following report:—

Total number on Register	...	...	...	...	391
Total number assisted during the year	...	...	...	...	269

					Male	Female
Children under 16	...	...	...	...	10	1
Persons aged 16-64	...	...	...	...	84	103
Persons aged 65 and over	...	...	...	...	27	44
					—	—
					121	148
				Total	269	

<i>Detail of type of Assistance provided</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	
Appliances (nursing equipment, aids, gadgets)	...	48
Adaptations to Dwellings (indoor)	...	11
Adaptations to Dwellings (outdoor)	...	17
Employment and Training	...	23
Accommodation (homes, hostels)	...	6
Transport	...	53
Housing investigations...	...	8
Rehoused	...	7
Referred to Occupational Therapist (class)	...	38
Referred to Occupational Therapist (domiciliary)	...	37
Welfare Visits	...	80
Referred to other agencies (Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Ministry of Health, Red Cross Social Club, W.V.S. Club	...	83
Picture Loan Scheme	...	12
Convalescence	...	12
Financial Help (fares)	...	8

*Classification of Disabilities*1958 *Total on Register*

A/E	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
F ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
G ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
H/L	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Q/T	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
V ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
U/W	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
X	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Y	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Z ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
								—
								426
								—

*Grouping*1958 *Total on Register*

A	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
B	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
C	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
D	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
E	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
								—
								391
								—

The key to this classification is as follows:—

- A/E =Amputation
- F =Arthritis and Rheumatism
- G =Congenital Malformations and Deformities
- H/L =Diseases of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems: of the heart or circulatory system: of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin
- Q/T =Injuries of the head, face neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine
- V =Organic nervous disease—Epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.
- U/W =Neuroses—Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V
- X =Tuberculosis (respiratory)
- Y =Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)
- Z =Diseases and injuries not specified above

Grouping

Persons 16 and upwards:—

- A =Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.
- B =Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops
- C =Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home
- D =Incapable of or not available for work
- E =Children under the age of 16 years whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948

Deceased during 1958—16

The register of handicapped persons now stands at 391. The total number who have received assistance in 1958 under the Council's Scheme is 269. Of these only 80 were routine supervisory visits.

I would point to the considerable success and growth of the Social Club for handicapped persons held once a month by the British Red Cross Society. Between 50-60 people attend, coming either in their own invalid tricycles or in transport provided jointly by the Red Cross and this authority. Other organisations who have helped by providing transport are The "Rotary" Club and St. John Ambulance Brigade.

This leads me to the general problem of transport for handicapped persons. It is hoped that in the near future a specially designed vehicle will be available in which severely disabled chair-bound people will be transported. Without such a vehicle we are fully aware that many people who could otherwise take part in outside activities must remain confined at home. It will be seen from the above table, that the numbers using transport increase steadily every year.

The provision of transport has an important bearing on the full use of the new Occupational Therapy Department. It is hoped this will be occupied by the end of 1959. A report on the work of the Occupational Therapist appears elsewhere, but it would not be out of place to state here—the considerable interest, practical help and for the younger members of the classes, the discipline of regular group activity which is provided by this work.

Some mention should be made too of the steady growth in the sale of articles, made under the supervision of the Occupational Therapist, by the Helping Hand Shop.

A new scheme has just been introduced—the Picture Loan Scheme. This is primarily for bedridden patients. A small number of carefully selected prints have been provided by the Director of the Art Gallery. These are taken to the patients by a voluntary worker, who is herself an artist and fully informed in her subject. The pictures are retained for about one month and then changed. We are extremely fortunate in having Mrs. Andrews to undertake this very interesting project. We are also indebted to the Museum Director and staff for their co-operation.

The rest of the work remains as before, with increases apparent in all services. A steady stream of appliances and aids are provided on the request of general practitioners and hospitals. Requests for house adaptations are now made by the hospital consultant before his patients leave his care.

Close co-operation has again been maintained with the Ministry of Health and in this way we try to expedite any outdoor adaptations which are carried out when an invalid tricycle is provided.

Particularly in a time of trade recession the employment of a seriously handicapped person is a difficult problem. This is particularly important with the young school leaver, and is studied jointly by the Welfare Officer, Youth Employment and Disablement Resettlement Officer.

Because of the steady growth of the work in this section, it was found necessary to engage another Welfare Officer and in October, Mrs. George, a graduate of the University of London was appointed.

The object of all the work done for handicapped persons must be to overcome the disability which is preventing this person from leading a full normal life. It is not enough to stem the progress of a disease. The social services must be used to integrate that person into the working and social life of the community.

(f) **Occupational Therapy.** At present this is carried out in un satisfactory premises at 31a London Street, but fortunately permission has now been given to erect a special Occupational Therapy centre in the grounds of Parkhurst. We are looking forward to great developments with this centre.

Miss D. J. Turner, Occupational Therapist, reports as follows:—

The number of patients attending the Occupational Therapy Centre has continued to increase again this past year. About three dozen have been coming once a week and invariably the time available for the craftwork in hand seems all too short. This applies particularly to the carpentry section as the carpenter still works part-time only; and he is kept busy as woodwork is found to be so very suitable for those suffering from all types of disability.

Extra equipment has been acquired and we can now turn out certain articles more cheaply than before, with advantage to the patients. Those interested in basketry, even those who are more severely disabled, are at present busy on a job for an outside firm who are taking advantage of our services and will pay sufficient for the patients to earn a little themselves.

About fifteen patients, those who are unable to attend the Occupational Therapy Centre, have been visited regularly at home, and have done some form of craftwork there.

The number of articles sold at the Helping Hand Shop has also increased, about 180 having been disposed of in this way during the past twelve months; but the patients continue to purchase what they want in the department.

During the summer a party of about forty took an excursion by coach to Marlborough, going through Savernake Forest. Tea was provided at a café and afterwards a seat in the garden was much appreciated as it happened to be a particularly warm and sunny day.

At Christmas a party was held, as before, at the British Red Cross Headquarters, London Road, each of the patients having tea and a present. Entertainment was provided by pupils of Mrs. Kuck, children of members of the Caledonian Society.

(g) **Helping Hand Shop.** These premises continue to be provided and maintained by the Local Authority, although staffed and administered by voluntary workers. Sales this year amounted to £533 14s. 0d.—an increase over the previous year. About 100 handicapped people and nine organisations submit articles for sale and it would be extremely difficult to find an outlet for such a large number of articles if this shop were not available. It is now open on 3½ days per week.

SECTION 31—CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

(a) **Meals on Wheels.** The following table shows the number of meals supplied by the W.V.S. during the year:—

January	...	...	...	1,174
February	...	...	...	1,011
March ...	...	...	...	1,086
April	...	...	...	1,268
May ...	...	...	...	1,229
June ...	...	...	...	1,046
July ...	...	...	...	1,159
August	...	...	...	1,033
September	...	...	...	992
October	...	...	...	1,092
November	...	...	...	895
December	...	...	...	1,025
				<hr/> 13,010 <hr/>

These meals are in addition to those which are provided by the Home Helps during the normal course of their duties. We estimate that Home Helps provide just under 1,000 meals per week.

Once again it is my pleasure to record thanks to the W.V.S. for their cheerful and willing help during the year.

(b) **Chiropody Service.** The Old People's Welfare Committee of the Council of Social Service continued to provide a chiropody service for old people. During the year ended December 31st, 1958, 171 received treatment, involving 650 treatments in all. Last-minute cancellations—due to illness and other causes were 33.

In order that appointments for further treatment could be arranged at more frequent intervals, a second qualified Chiropodist was engaged by the Committee at the beginning of September, for a session of two hours weekly. Both Clinics are held on Wednesdays at Star Lane Clinic, which the Borough Council lends free of charge. This, together with a grant from the National Corporation for the Care of Old People and donations from the Sunday Cinema Committee, etc., makes it possible for this service to be provided, for those who cannot afford to pay the professional fee, at the moderate charge of 2/6 per treatment. Home treatment is arranged, from time to time, for old people unable to attend the Clinics, on account of illness or infirmity.

Appointments are arranged through the Secretary to the O.P.W. Committee, at Watlington House.

SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

At the end of the year 9 Homes, as follows, were registered in Reading as providing accommodation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people:—

107 Connaught Road	...	...	...	...	4 places
8 Southcote Road	...	...	...	...	18 „
106 Wokingham Road	...	...	...	...	6 „
51 Tilehurst Road...	...	...	...	...	23 „
Springfield St. Luke	...	...	...	...	28 „
272 Wokingham Road	...	...	...	...	6 „
4 College Road ...	...	...	...	...	14 „
31 Alexandra Road	...	...	...	...	6 „
62 Kidmore Road	...	...	...	...	3 „

SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

Two cases have been dealt with under this Section of the Act during 1958. Both applications to the Court for removal were successful, one case being removed to hospital and the other to Woodlands. Each person benefitted from this procedure being taken, and a marked physical improvement was noted in each instance.

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

10 cremations (8 male and 2 female) were arranged, in addition to 4 burials (3 male and 1 child) by the Department under this Section.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Cremation. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table gives an idea of the steady increase in the number of cremations over the last fourteen years:—

1958	...	...	...	...	1,382
1957	...	...	...	...	1,270
1956	...	...	...	...	1,210
1955	...	...	...	...	992
1954	...	...	...	...	869
1953	...	...	...	...	891
1952	...	...	...	...	675
1951	...	...	...	...	763
1950	...	...	...	...	576
1949	...	...	...	...	524
1948	...	...	...	...	444
1947	...	...	...	...	407
1946	...	...	...	...	344
1945	...	...	...	...	378

460 (33.33%) of those cremated were borough residents and 922 (66.66%) came from outside the borough, 36.82% of the residents of the borough who died were cremated.

Public Health Laboratory Service. The valuable work of the Public Health Laboratory Service continued throughout the year, and I am very grateful to Dr. Wood, Director of the Reading Laboratory for his help and co-operation on many occasions. Unfortunately it is not possible to present particulars of examinations which applied only to Reading.

Nursing Homes. At the end of the year 4 nursing homes were registered, providing accommodation for 13 maternity patients and 48 others. All homes were inspected during the year. The Helena Home closed during the year.

Dunedin	...	...	...	20 beds
Easterbrook	...	...	...	14 „
Whiteknights	...	...	...	14 „
Chiltern Maternity	...	...	...	13 „

Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948. At the end of the year there were 4 Child Minders including 1 day nursery registered in the town in respect of 48 children. There is nothing special to report under this heading.

International Certificates. During the year 640 International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated.

